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Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Rebecca Greally

Email:

Rebecca.Greally@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622616

Date: Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL** to be held in **MEETING SPACE, BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF** on **WEDNESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2022** at **4.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council members as follows:-

J Lang, E Cartie, B Gallacher (Vice-Chair (Planning)), L Grimshaw (Chair), K Nisbet, K Parry, M Purvis, J Reid, E Simpson, C Ball, D Carr (Vice-Chair), C Humphrey, W Ploszaj, M Richardson, A Wallace and A Watson

Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Committee meeting.

Members are referred to the risk assessment, previously circulated, for meetings held in County Hall. Masks should be worn when moving round but can be removed when seated, social distancing should be maintained, hand sanitiser regularly used and members requested to self-test twice a week at home, in line with government guidelines.



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400
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AGENDA

PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. **PROCEDURE AT PLANNING MEETINGS** (Pages 1 - 2)
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
3. **MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 10)

Minutes of the meetings of Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. NB Any member needing clarification must contact Legal Services by email at monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.
5. **DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (Pages 11 - 14)

To request the committee to decide the planning applications attached to this report using the powers delegated to it.

Please note that printed letters of objection/support are not circulated with the agenda but are available on the Council's website at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning.aspx>
6. **21/01978-FUL** (Pages 15 - 26)

Change of use to industrial storage.

Land North Of Jubilee Estate, Lennep Way, Jubilee Industrial Estate, Ashington, Northumberland.
7. **APPEALS UPDATE** (Pages 27 - 38)

For Members' information to report the progress of planning appeals. This is a monthly report and relates to appeals throughout all 5 Local Area

Council Planning Committee areas and covers appeals of Strategic Planning Committee.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To reply to any questions received from members of the public which have been submitted in writing in advance of the meeting. Questions can be asked about issues for which the Council has a responsibility. (Public question times take place on a bimonthly basis at Local Area Council meetings: in January, March, May, July, September and November each year.)

As agreed by the County Council in February 2012, the management of local public question times is at the discretion of the chair of the committee.

Please note however that a question may possibly be rejected if it requires the disclosure of any categories of confidential or exempt information, namely information:

1. relating to any individual;
2. which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual;
3. relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
4. relating to any labour relations matters/negotiations;
5. restricted to legal proceedings
6. about enforcement/enacting legal orders
7. relating to the prevention, investigation of prosecution of crime.

And/or:

- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- it is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of this or another County Council committee in the past six months;
- the request repeats an identical or very similar question from the same person;
- the cost of providing an answer is disproportionate;
- it is being separately addressed through the Council's complaints process;
- it is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the county;
- it relates to planning, licensing and/or other regulatory applications
- it is a question that town/parish councils would normally be expected to raise through other channels.

If the Chair is of the opinion that a question is one which for whatever reason, cannot properly be asked in an area meeting, he/she will disallow it and inform the resident of his/her decision.

Copies of any written answers (without individuals' personal contact details) will be provided for members after the meeting and also be publicly available.

Democratic Services will confirm the status of the progress on any previously requested written answers and follow up any related actions requested by the Local Area Council.

9. PETITIONS

(Pages
39 - 42)

This item is to:

(a) Receive any new petitions: to receive any new petitions. The lead petitioner is entitled to briefly introduce their petition by providing a statement in writing, and a response to any petitions received will then be organised for a future meeting;

(b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:

(i) Response to Petition for Dogs on Leads at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Promenade.

(c) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered: any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting

10. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

To receive a verbal update from the Area Managers from Technical Services and Neighbourhood Services in attendance about any key recent, ongoing and/or future planned Local Services work for the attention of members of the Local Area Council, who will also then have the opportunity to raise issues with the Area Managers.

The Area Managers have principal responsibility for highway services and environmental services, such as refuse collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance, within the geographic boundaries of the Local Area Council.

11. BUDGET 2022-23 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

This presentation will outline the Council's strategy to the 2022-23 Budget within the context of the Corporate Plan. The presentation will provide details of the approach to setting the budget for the next financial year and the broad impact this will have on the delivery of services.

12. NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE: COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-26 CONSULTATION

(Pages
43 - 76)

The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 has been developed, providing data and analysis on key fire and rescue related risks, and information on how Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service will work with communities to address and mitigate those risks. The purpose of the report is to raise awareness of a public consultation on the Plan which opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022 and to provide

an opportunity for feedback from Local Area Council into the process.

13. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages
77 - 82)

To note the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (any suggestions for new agenda items will require confirmation by the Business Chair after the meeting)

14. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider such other business, as in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name (please print):
Meeting:
Date:
Item to which your interest relates:
Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):
Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

1. Registerable Personal Interests – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or

b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

2. Non-registerable personal interests - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

3. Non-participation in Council Business

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.

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Northumberland County Council

PROCEDURE AT PLANNING COMMITTEE

A Welcome from Chairman to members and those members of the public watching on the livestream

Welcome to also include reference to

- (i) Fact that meeting is being held in a Covid safe environment and available to view on a live stream through You Tube Northumberland TV
- (ii) Members are asked to keep microphones on mute unless speaking

B Record attendance of members

- (i) Democratic Services Officer (DSO) to announce and record any apologies received.

C Minutes of previous meeting and Disclosure of Members' Interests

D Development Control

APPLICATION

Chair

Introduces application

Site Visit Video (previously circulated) - invite members questions

Planning Officer

Updates – Changes to recommendations – present report

Public Speaking

Objector(s) (up to 5 mins)

Local member (up to 5 mins)/ parish councillor (up to 5 mins)

Applicant/Supporter (up to 5 mins)

NO QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS OR OF/BY LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Committee members' questions to Planning Officers

Chairman to respond to raised hands of members as to whether they have any questions of the Planning Officers

Debate (Rules)

Proposal

Seconded

DEBATE

Again Chairman to respond to raised hand of members as to whether they wish to participate in the debate

- No speeches until proposal seconded
- Speech may not exceed 6 minutes
- Amendments to Motions
- Approve/Refuse/Defer

Vote(by majority or Chair's casting vote)

- (i) Planning Officer confirms and reads out wording of resolution
- (ii) Legal officer should then record the vote FOR/AGAINST/ABSTAIN (reminding members that they should abstain where they have not heard all of the consideration of the application)

Agenda Item 3

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council** held on **Wednesday, 10 November 2021 at 5:30 pm** in County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland

PRESENT

Councillor L Grimshaw (Chair)

MEMBERS

C Ball
D Carr
J Lang
K Parry

M Purvis
J Reid
E Simpson
A Wallace

OFFICERS

M Carle
R Grealley

S Pearson

E Richardson

M Taylor
R Wealleans

G Younger

Lead Highways Delivery Manager
Assistant Democratic Services
Officer

Senior Manager – Specialist
Services

Senior Manager Specialist Services
– Poverty Lead

Executive Director

Neighbourhood Services Area
Manager

Accommodation Lead

One member of the press was present.

01 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from E. Cartie, B. Gallacher, K. Nisbet, M. Richardson, A. Watson.

02 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council held on Wednesday, 15 September 2021 and Wednesday 13 October 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

03 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Councillor C. Ball informed the committee that she was employed by a Youth Service organization called Bad Apples North East.

04 LOCAL TRANSPORT UPDATE

The Local Services Director and Local Services and Neighbourhood Services Divisional Manager were in attendance to provide verbal updates about any key recent, ongoing and/or future planned Local Services work and to respond to issues raised by members.

Neighbourhood Services

R. Wealleans, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, provided an update as follows:

Grounds Maintenance

Grass Cutting:

- Grass cutting is now under continuous review, we will keep cutting until the surface becomes too wet. The aim being to stop just before surface damage, caused by our machines, is visible.
- We have seen some challenging periods this year due to near perfect growing conditions, we had a spell of very warm then wet conditions. The teams recovered well and ended the season with the grass at the standard we would expect.
- Finished the season on cut 11 in Ashington and 14/15 in Blyth
- Core cuts were achieved in all areas, and we were short in the additional cuts for Blyth by 2/3 in some areas due to weather conditions at the start of the season and requested to carry out other work in June/July with Grass cutting stood down at the bequest of the Town Council to carry out other works for the partnership which hindered progress.

Weeds:

- We continue to react to identified areas where needed and are currently attending to various Traffic Islands and Roundabouts within the district, please let us know of any locations you would like us to attend when resources allow during the winter period.

Street Sweeping:

- We are currently working on leaf hotspot areas to prevent localised flooding.
- Please bring any areas in need of sweeping to our attention.

Winter Works

- Our winter works programme is about to start, please come forward with any requests at your earliest convenience (in some areas Cllr walkabouts and meetings have taken place – we will work through lists agreed with Cllrs during recent walkabouts).
- As always, we will carry out core works first then move onto our prioritised list of requests and make every attempt to see what we can get through.

Waste Services

- Other than a few minor vehicle breakdowns, staffing shortages and covid restrictions, Residual, Recycling and Garden waste collection services are all operating well.
- Residual waste tonnage is still above the norm by around 20/30 tonnes per collection week.
- Garden Waste collections will come to an end soon - ends November/December.
- Income from garden waste exceeded target.
- Income from commercial waste and bulk collections are exceeding targets to date due to an excellent recovery following the initial impact caused by covid restrictions.
- Teams will continue to review existing collection rounds in order to cope with ongoing housing growth as well as continued growth in take up of the garden waste service.

Additional Information

- The kerbside glass recycling scheme trial has been extended by a further 12 months to help us gather more data on volumes collected, servicing efficiency and participation rates etc.
- A small number of additional properties have been added to the scheme in each area to improve the data we are analysing.
- The scheme is operating in Bedlington, Alnwick & Lesbury, Hexham and Morpeth and residents are being asked to present the glass bin for collection monthly. The scheme is for glass bottles and jars only.
- Our NEAT teams will attend all the usual war memorial locations to bring them up to the highest standard possible for the remembrance services.
- Excellent news, Northumberland gained 11 Green Flag awards for our parks. A superb effort by all involved in a particularly difficult year.
- In this area Ridley Park and Hirst Park gained Green Flag status.

Highways Services

M Carle, Lead Highways Delivery manager provided an update as follows:

All Highways Inspectors and maintenance crews continue to work inspecting, fixing carriageway defects, making repairs and making safe category one defects across the South East area.

Gully emptier is fully deployed dealing with reported issues and cyclic maintenance.

Larger Tarmac Patching

Larger Tarmac Patching has been carried out in the following locations;

- Bohemia Terrace, Blyth
- Falston Road, Blyth
- Beadnell Road, Blyth
- Woodhorn Road, Ashington
- Wansbeck Road, Ashington

Drainage Improvements:

Drainage Improvements have been carried out in the following areas:

- A192 Woodhorn, Ashington
- North Seaton Road, Newbiggin
- Duke Street, Ashington
- Ennerdale Road, Blyth
- Park Road, Ashington

The area teams are continuously looking at and programming future works both patching and drainage improvements.

LTP - Carriageway Resurfacing

LTP Carriageway Resurfacing schemes have been carried out in the following areas:

- College Road, Ashington
- Laverock Hall Road, Blyth
- Briardene R/A, Ashington
- Maple Crescent, Blyth
- Duridge Crescent, Blyth

Footway and Carriageway LTP Resurfacing have been identified and programmed for the following areas:

- Newsham Road, Blyth
- Newcastle Road, Blyth
- Norham Road, Ashington
- Bothal Cottages, Ashington

Winter Maintenance

A Winter Services Preparedness Report has been submitted as an information item. Happy to answer any questions relating to that item at that time

The following responses were made in response to questions and comments from members:

- There were only four gully emptiers to carry out work throughout the County. These were deployed in four areas; North, West, Central and South East. A plan was being drawn up to create a programme of work which would be hierarchal.
- They were working closely with R. Wealleans team to draw up the plan. There were new tests being carried out using carbon depth analysis to record the depth and effectiveness of the cleaning.
- Changes in policy had resulted in the reduction of gully emptiers. The service had always asked for more resources when possible.
- M. Carle was going to raise concerns regarding a zebra crossing light on Newbiggin Road and ensure that the appropriate action was taken.
- It was confirmed that any revenue made from additional services such as glass recycling collection went back into a general pot and wasn't given automatically to Local Services.

05 YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION

S Pearson, Senior Manager - Specialist Services and G Younger, Accommodation Lead, were in attendance to provide Members with information on the Youth Service. A copy of the power point presentation would be filed with the signed minutes and circulated to Members after the meeting.

Northumberland Adolescent Services (NAS) was made up of services to meet the needs of all adolescents across Northumberland and included:

- Youth Service Participation & Advocacy and Prevention/Detached
- Sorted Substance Misuse Service
- Youth Justice Service, Missing & Exploitation
- 14+/18+ Teams One & Two
- Accommodation Team
- Business Administration Team

An explanation was provided on the role and function of each of the services and how they supported young people in Northumberland around three distinct strands:

- Prevention
- Participation and Advocacy
- Early Help/Missing

The provision of universal youth services were developed and delivered across Northumberland working in partnership with the Voluntary Sector and it was through data analysis and feedback from partners it was decided in which area to deploy resources.

The following comments were made in response to questions:

- Youth services employ 35 members of staff on varying contracts. Many of the staff are on part time contracts.
- It was acknowledged that the Youth provision was limited but also highlighted that it was the only provision in the North East. The provision took a targeted approach. Youth Services worked with Adolescent Services to add provision where needed.
- Referrals to the Youth Service came from an array of sources. Generally, they were referred from Care team but could have also been through front door referrals. The young person who had been referred would have been offered an advocate to speak to them if they wanted to.
- Quarterly meetings had been introduced to share information and advice with Town and Parish Councillors.
- It was advised that the Neighbourhood Police would be a good way to report any potential concerns.
- Missing from Home service had a strong procedure and systems were in place. The service was made aware daily of any missing children. Measures were in place to ensure that every young person was safeguarded to an appropriate level. Escalation of cases were done when needed.
- Information would be passed on regarding numbers of referrals from different areas and members of staff by hour.
- It was assured that there was plenty of provision for young people through the Youth Service and Local Communities.

06 NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

M. Taylor, Executive Director and E. Richardson, Senior Manager Specialist Services – Poverty Lead were in attendance to present to Members information on Northumberland Communities Together. It gave an overview of the service and future objectives. A copy of the power point presentation would be filed with the signed minutes and circulated to Members after the meeting.

Northumberland Communities Together was an inclusive community and multi-disciplinary team approach that responded to the specific and emerging needs of residents and communities by fully optimising the knowledge, capability and capacity that existed within the community and amongst local networks and partnerships.

It outlined the aims of the service which included; reducing health inequalities and protecting the most vulnerable. The process for the response hub was outlined with the differing roles within the team. It was important that personalized solutions were found for those in need.

Community engagement and enrichment was explained which involved identifying and supporting partnerships within the community. Its aim was to make the best use of the assets and expertise already available within the community and to add complementary resources to enrich them.

The community hub investment team were working to create community hubs throughout the County. The hub design would be dependent on the needs of the

community. The flagship hub was in Cramlington and members were invited to visit it.

The following comments were made in response to Member's questions:-

- Members thanked the Officers and their teams for the hard work they have undertaken during the pandemic.
- Members noted that Northumberland County Council were leading the way with discretionary funding. The Household Support Fund was not means tested and it was confirmed that every penny would be used to help the front end of the service.
- Members noted that the Community Hub investment team would be looking to establish hubs throughout the County. Hubs were to be created in local areas where there was a need. Officers welcomed ideas from Members for potential Hub locations.
- Members noted there was a contact number that was for everyone; residents, Councillors and GP's etc.

07. WORKPROGRAMME

RESOLVED members noted the updated Work Programme.

08. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED members noted the date of the next meeting was Wednesday 15th December (Planning only)

The meeting closed at 5.03 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

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Northumberland County Council

ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

12 JANUARY 2022

DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Report of the Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services

Cabinet Member: Councillor CW Horncastle

Purpose of report

To request the Local Area Council to decide the planning applications attached to this report using the powers delegated to it.

Recommendations

The Local Area Council is recommended to consider the attached planning applications and decide them in accordance with the individual recommendations, also taking into account the advice contained in the covering report.

Key issues

Each application has its own particular set of individual issues and considerations that must be taken into account when determining the application. These are set out in the individual reports contained in the next section of this agenda.

DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Introduction

1. The following section of the agenda consists of planning applications to be determined by the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council in accordance with the current delegation arrangements. Any further information, observations or letters relating to any of the applications contained in this agenda and received after the date of publication of this report will be reported at the meeting.

The Determination of Planning and Other Applications

2. In considering the planning and other applications, members are advised to take into account the following general principles:
 - Decision makers are to have regard to the development plan, so far as it is material to the application

- Applications are to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise
 - Applications should always be determined on their planning merits in the light of all material considerations
 - Members are reminded that recommendations in favour of giving permission must be accompanied by suitable conditions and a justification for giving permission, and that refusals of permission must be supported by clear planning reasons both of which are defensible on appeal
 - Where the Local Area Council is minded to determine an application other than in accordance with the Officer's recommendation, clear reasons should be given that can be minuted, and appropriate conditions or refusal reasons put forward
3. Planning conditions must meet 6 tests that are set down in paragraph 206 of the NPPF and reflected in National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG, March 2014 as amended). They must be:
- Necessary
 - Relevant to planning
 - Relevant to the development permitted
 - Enforceable
 - Precise
 - Reasonable in all other respects
4. Where councillors are contemplating moving a decision contrary to officer advice, they are recommended to consider seeking advice from senior officers as to what constitutes material planning considerations, and as to what might be appropriate conditions or reasons for refusal.
5. Attached as Appendix 1 is the procedure to be followed at all Local Area Councils.

Important Copyright Notice

- 6 The maps used are reproduced from the Ordnance Survey maps with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery office, Crown Copyright reserved.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

These are listed at the end of the individual application reports.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Procedures and individual recommendations are in line with policy unless otherwise stated
Finance and value for Money:	None unless stated

Human Resources:	None
Property:	None
Equalities:	None
Risk Assessment:	None
Sustainability:	Each application will have an impact on the local environment and it has been assessed accordingly
Crime and Disorder:	As set out in the individual reports
Customer Considerations:	None
Consultations:	As set out in the individual reports
Wards:	All

Report author Rob Murfin
Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services

01670 625542
Rob.Murfin@northumberland.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1: PROCEDURE AT PLANNING COMMITTEES

Chair

Introduce s application

Planning Officer

Updates – Changes to Recommendations – present report

Public Speaking

Objector(s) (5mins)

Local Councillor/Parish Councillor (5 mins)

Applicant / Supporter (5 mins)

NO QUESTIONS ALLOWED TO/ BY PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Member's Questions to Planning Officers

Rules of Debate

Proposal

Seconded

DEBATE

- No speeches until motion is seconded
- Speech may not exceed 10 minutes
- Amendments to Motions
- Approve/ refuse/ defer

Vote (by majority or Chair casting vote)

Chair should read out resolution before voting

Voting should be a clear show of hands.



Northumberland
County Council
DELEGATED REPORT

Application No:	21/01978/FUL		
Proposal:	Change of use to industrial storage		
Site Address	Land North Of Jubilee Estate, Lennep Way, Jubilee Industrial Estate, Ashington Northumberland		
Applicant/ Agent	Mr William Armstrong Portland Industrial Estate, Ellington Road, Ashington, NE63 8TU		
Ward	Haydon	Parish	Ashington
Valid Date	15 June 2021	Expiry Date	10 August 2021
Case Officer Details	Name: Mr Will Laing Job Title: Planning Officer Tel No: Email: will.laing@northumberland.gov.uk		

Recommendation: That this application be GRANTED permission

1. Introduction

1.1 After consideration by the Chairman of Planning Committee and the Executive Director of Planning, this application is to be considered by Local Area Planning Committee.

2. Description of the Proposal

2.1 The application seeks full planning permission for a change of use of a parcel of land to a B8 storage use, including the installation of an electricity kiosk as set out in the plans submitted to the local planning authority. The site is located with Lennep Way along the site's northern boundary, with the dwellings of no.49 to 53 Jubilee Estate along the southern boundary.

2.2 The site has an existing hard surface and is enclosed by a metal palisade fence, which was approved under application 20/01986/FUL and later varied under application 21/00671/VARYCO to relocate the site access.

3. Planning History

Reference Number: 20/01986/FUL

Description: Erection of 2.4m fence and replacement of grass with hardcore as amended by revised site layout plan "As Proposed" received 17/08/20

Status: Approved

Reference Number: 21/00671/VARYCO

Description: Variation of Condition 3 (Approved Plans) relating to planning permission 20/01986/FUL to allow relocation of the site access (Retrospective)

Status: Approved

4. Planning Policy

4.1 Development Plan Policy

Wansbeck District Local Plan 2007

GP1 - General Development;
GP6 - Trees and Hedgerows;
GP30 - Visual Impact;
GP31 - Urban Design; and
EMP1 - (a) General Employment.

4.2 National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF)
National Planning Policy Guidance (as amended 2019) (NPPG)

4.3 Other Documents/Strategies

Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) and proposed minor modifications, submitted on 29 May 2019

STP 1 - Spatial strategy (Strategic Policy);
STP 2 - Presumption in favour of sustainable development (Strategic Policy);
ECN 6 - General employment land;
ECN 7 - Key general employment areas for B-Class uses;
QOP 1 - Design Principles;
QOP 2 - Good design and amenity;
TRA 1 - Promoting sustainable connections (Strategic Policy);
TRA 2 - The effects of development on the transport network; and
POL 2 - Pollution and air, soil and water quality.

5. Consultee Responses

County Ecologist	No objection subject to condition.
Public Protection	No comments or objections.
Ashington Parish Council	No response received.
Highways	No objection.
North Trees And Woodland Officer	No response received.
Forestry Commission	No response received.
The Coal Authority	No objection.

6. Public Responses

Neighbour Notification

Number of Neighbours Notified	17
Number of Objections	5
Number of Support	0
Number of General Comments	3

Notices

General site notice, 1st July 2021

No Press Notice Required.

Summary of Responses:

Councillor Brannigan

- No drainage on site and the site has a previous history of flooding requiring pumping to drain the site;
- Noise, opening times should reflect the 0800 to 1700hrs opening hours of the surrounding industrial estate;
- No flood lighting should be permitted in the interest of residential amenity;
- Containers should be restricted to a single height, as to not impact on the light of the neighbouring properties;
- Rear boundary fence should be erected in accordance with the approved plan, the applicant should not be allowed use the residential boundaries as the site boundary;
- Sufficient space should be left between the site and the neighbouring dwellings as to allow maintenance of fencing;
- Applicant to be made aware that any hazardous materials stored must be applied for through the appropriate channels;

Neighbour Representations

16No objections from 4No addresses and 2No neutral letters of correspondence from 2No of addresses have been received, raising the following issues and grounds of objection:

- Request for determination by Planning Committee;
- Impact on visual amenity;
- Colours should be controlled by means;
- Containers should be restricted to single height, and should not be double stacked;
- Safety concerns over potential storage of hazardous or flammable materials;
- Safety concerns, previous fires within the Jubilee Industrial Estate;
- Security concerns over the fencing that has not been installed at the site (previous application);
- Fencing shown on the proposed plans should be installed immediately and leave a maintenance gap for residents;
- Allegations that the applicant does not intend to install the fencing to the rear of the site;
- Opening times should be restricted to reasonable hours;
- Site has previously flooded, and there is no existing watercourse;

- Impact on Protected Tree;
- No external lighting should be installed;
- Delivery of IBC tanks delivered to site;
- Previous history of planning enforcement;
- Comprehensive Risk Assessment/ Environmental Assessment should be carried out;
- Submitted Plans do not show the breezeblock structure in close proximity to the protected trees on site (plans since amended);
- Allegation that the stated site areas of 187sqm is incorrect;
- Work has started on site;
- No waste collection or storage details;
- Proposal would not generate any jobs;
- How will the site be enforced/policed?;
- Kerbs around the site have been displaced and the parts of the site are overgrown;
- The site is an allocated 'buffer zone' and is not meant for industrial use;
- Planning permission by degrees over several applications;
- Difference in the site notice date and the neighbour notification letters, time scale should be extended to include notice;
- Land Registry document challenging ownership; and
- Objection to 'industrial storage' in comparison to the applied for 'container storage'.

7. Appraisal

7.1 The main issues for consideration in the determination of this application are as follows:

- Principle of Development;
- Residential Amenity;
- Public Safety;
- Design and Visual Amenity;
- Flooding and Flood Risk;
- Parking and Highway Safety;
- Trees and Ecology; and
- Other Issues

7.2 In accordance with Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, planning applications should be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this case the development comprises policies in the Wansbeck District Local Plan (adopted July 2007, saved policies 2010) (WDLP) as identified above. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) are material considerations in determining this application.

7.3 Paragraph 48 of the NPPF states that weight can be given to policies contained in emerging plans dependent upon three criteria: the stage of preparation of the plan; the extent to which there are unresolved objections to policies within the plan; and the degree of consistency with the NPPF. The Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (NLP) was submitted to the Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 29 May 2019, and is currently going through the examination process.

7.4 On 9 June 2021, the Council published for consultation, a Schedule of proposed Main Modifications to the draft Local Plan which the independent Inspectors

examining the plan consider are necessary to make the plan 'sound'. As such the plan is at an advanced stage of preparation, and the policies in the NLP - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (Jan 2019) as amended by proposed Main Modifications (June 2021), are considered to be consistent with the NPPF. The NLP is a material consideration in determining this application, with the amount of weight that can be given to specific policies (and parts thereof) is dependent upon whether Main Modifications are proposed, and the extent and significance of unresolved objections.

Principle of Development

7.5 This application seeks full planning permission for a change of use to B8 storage using shipping containers and the installation of a kiosk structure constructed from breeze blocks.

7.6 The application site is located within an existing industrial estate and allocated as an employment use area under the adopted Wansbeck Local Plan (adopted July 2007, saved policies 2010) and as an area for flexible employment uses in the Emerging Northumberland Local Plan 2019, as such the proposal is considered to be acceptable in principle.

7.7 It is noted that objections have been raised on the grounds that the site is located on an allocated buffer zone that should be maintained in the interest of residential amenity. However, there is no planning history to support this claim and allocation in both the adopted Local Plan and the emerging Local Plan have the employment use allocation run up to the boundary with the residential properties adjoining the site. As such, this is not a reasonable ground for refusal.

7.8 Objections have been submitted on the basis that the approved fencing to the rear of the site has not been installed, stating that the fencing should be installed and leave a maintenance gap for the neighbouring residents to maintain their fences. It should be noted that the hard-standing and fencing are the subject of an existing permission and are therefore not material to this application, issues with the previous application will need to be handled through the appropriate enforcement action.

7.9 An objection has been made on the grounds that the proposal would not generate any jobs. The proposed use class would be compatible with the land use allocation under then local plan and as such this is not reasonable grounds for refusal.

7.10 An objection has been received on the phrasing of application 'industrial storage' of the description in comparison to the applied for 'container storage' of the plans. The proposal applies for a B8 use, which is a use class that can include 'industrial storage' and the storage of shipping containers which, as in this case, can be used for short and long term storage.

7.11 Having regard to the above, the development is considered to be acceptable in principle and would comply with policies GP1 and EMP1 - (a) of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007), STP 1, STP 2, ECN 6, ECN 7 of the Emerging Northumberland Local Plan (2017).

Residential Amenity

7.12 Several objections have been raised regarding the potential detrimental impact of the proposed development on the neighbouring residential dwellings, including the impact on light from containers that if double stacked, light disturbance should any external lighting be installed and noise disturbance from the use with particularly if the operating hours are not controlled.

7.13 Due to the proximity of the proposed containers to the boundary of the nearest residential properties and the existing residential boundary height, the proposed containers would be visible from the neighbouring dwellings, however the impact on the light and outlook of the residential dwellings would not merit refusal of the application should the containers be limited to a single storey height. As such, it is necessary for the imposition of a condition to ensure the containers of the site are limited to a single level to ensure the proposal does not have a significant detrimental impact on the light or outlook of the neighbouring dwellings.

7.14 The previous application to enclose the land subject to this application (20/01986/FUL) had no operating hours and no operating hours are proposed in this application. The proposed use could potentially generate significant noise through the use of the site and the proximity to residential properties merits the imposition of conditions to ensure the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on residential amenity. As such, it is officer recommendation that operating hours are limited between the hours of 0730 and 2000hrs Monday to Saturday and 0900hrs to 1600hrs on Sundays and Bank Holidays in the interest of residential amenity.

7.15 No lighting has been proposed as part of this application. The installation of lighting could potentially have a significant impact on the residential amenity of the neighbouring dwellings. As such, it is officer recommendation that no external lighting is installed without prior approval from the Local Planning Authority.

7.16 Public Protection has been consulted and have no objections to the proposal.

7.17 Having regard to the above and with the recommended conditions imposed, the proposal is deemed to comply with policies GP1 and EMP1 - (a) of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007) and policies QOP 2 and POL 2 of the Emerging Northumberland Local Plan (2017).

Public Safety

7.18 Several objections have been raised on the grounds of public safety raising concerns with the potential storage of dangerous or hazardous materials on site, and recent fires within the existing industrial estate.

7.19 The planning system does not override any health and safety legislation relating to the storage or handling of hazardous or dangerous materials. If planning permission is granted, the site's operator will need to comply with any relevant legislation to the handling and storage of materials on site. As such, this is not reasonable ground for refusal.

7.20 It is noted that fires have happened elsewhere in the estate, however these are material to the application site. The application does not include any industrial processes or incineration on site and as site this is not reasonable grounds for refusal.

7.21 A further objection has requested that a Comprehensive Risk Assessment/ Environmental Assessment be carried out. The scale and use of the proposal does not qualify for an Environmental Impact Assessment under EIA regulations, and a risk assessment of the site falls under the Health and Safety responsibilities of the sites operator and not within the jurisdiction of the planning system.

7.22 The Public Protection Team and Coal Mining Authority have been consulted and have raised no objections to the application on the grounds of public safety or ground stability.

7.23 Having regard to the above, the proposal would not have any significant adverse impact on public safety in terms of planning legislation.

Design and Visual Amenity

7.24 The proposed containers are not an unusual sight within the Jubilee Industrial Estate, with a similar container storage use to the north of the estate. It is noted that objections have been submitted on the grounds of visual amenity. It should be noted that the fencing and hard-surfacing were granted consent under a previous application and as such, the assessment of the visual impact is limited to the containers and breezeblock kiosk structure.

7.25 The proposed containers and breeze block are considered to remain in keeping with the industrial allocation of the site. Earlier within this report, it has been recommended that the containers are restricted to a single storey by means of condition in the interest of residential amenity, in addition to this, the proposed condition would have the secondary function of reducing the visual impact on the development. To ensure the containers have a uniform appearance, a condition shall be imposed to ensure that the containers are painted and kept in good repair.

7.26 Having regard to the above, the proposal is deemed to comply with policies GP1, GP30 and GP31 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007) and policies QOP1 and QOP 2 of the Emerging Northumberland Local Plan (2017).

Flooding and Flood Risk

7.27 Concerns regarding flooding and flood risk have been submitted in conjunction with photographs of historic flooding following the implementation of the previous application.

7.28 While these concerns are noted, the application site does not fall within flood zone. The hard-surfacing of the site was approved and implemented under a previous application and the proposed shipping containers would be sited on the existing hard-surfacing, as such the proposed containers would have no further impact on the surface water drainage than the existing hard-surfacing.

7.29 Having regard to the above, the proposal is considered to be acceptable terms of flood risk and drainage.

Parking and Highway Safety

7.28 The Highways Authority has no objections to the proposal. It is noted that a resident has raised concerns on waste storage and disposal, however given the

nature and scale of the development the Highways Authority has not requested additional waste storage materials.

7.29 Having regard to the above, the proposal is deemed to comply with policies GP1 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007) and policies TRA 1 and TRA 2 of the Emerging Northumberland Local Plan (2017).

Trees and Ecology

7.30 A breeze block kiosk has been built under the canopy of the protected tree on-site. The applicant has submitted a Tree Survey which has been reviewed by the County Ecologist, who has raised no objections to the proposal subject to the imposition of a condition to ensure the development is carried out in accordance with the submitted Tree Survey.

7.31 With this in mind, the proposal is considered to be acceptable in terms of trees and ecology and as such would comply with policy GP6 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan 2007 and QOP 4 of the Emerging Northumberland Local Plan.

Other Issues

7.32 The submitted objections raise several further issues that shall be addressed below:

7.33 It has been stated that the fencing shown on the proposed plans should be installed immediately and leave a maintenance gap for residents. The fencing and siting have been approved under the previous application and as such, they would be subject to the enforcement action for any breaches to the previous application.

7.34 Objections have been raised on the grounds that work has started and the delivery of IBC tanks delivered to site. While it is recommended that planning permission is obtained prior to the commencement of works, it is not a legal requirement to do so. The proposed IBC tanks would be in line with the proposed storage use and are therefore not reasonable grounds to refuse the application.

7.35 Concerns have been raised regarding the previous history of planning enforcement on the site. The previous enforcement history is not material to the determination of the application, which needs to be assessed on what is being applied for, rather than any previous history of the site.

7.36 A concern was raised that the submitted plans do not show the breezeblock structure in close proximity to the protected trees on site. The plans have since been amended to address this issue.

7.37 The stated site area of 187sqm within the application form is incorrect. Officer review of the plans show the site to be approximately 1830sqm, as such the application form appears to be typographical error. The proposal is not a major application, and would not require a s.106 planning obligation. As such, the error in site size would not have a material impact on the proposal.

7.38 An objection has stated that there is a difference in the site notice date and the neighbour notification letters, time scale should be extended to include notice. Officers can confirm that the public consultation period expires at the end of the

latest notice, which in this case was the site notice. All consultation periods have expired.

7.39 An objection was submitted with a partial Land Registry document challenging ownership. The submitted document did not include any maps or plans to show which plot of land the document referred to and no further information was submitted. As such, no evidence has been submitted to indicate that the ownership certificates within the application form are incorrect.

Equality Duty

7.40 The County Council has a duty to have regard to the impact of any proposal on those people with characteristics protected by the Equality Act. Officers have had due regard to Sec 149(1) (a) and (b) of the Equality Act 2010 and considered the information provided by the applicant, together with the responses from consultees and other parties, and determined that the proposal would have no material impact on individuals or identifiable groups with protected characteristics. Accordingly, no changes to the proposal were required to make it acceptable in this regard.

Crime and Disorder Act Implications

7.41 These proposals have no implications in relation to crime and disorder.

Human Rights Act Implications

7.42 The Human Rights Act requires the County Council to take into account the rights of the public under the European Convention on Human Rights and prevents the Council from acting in a manner which is incompatible with those rights. Article 8 of the Convention provides that there shall be respect for an individual's private life and home save for that interference which is in accordance with the law and necessary in a democratic society in the interests of (inter alia) public safety and the economic wellbeing of the country. Article 1 of protocol 1 provides that an individual's peaceful enjoyment of their property shall not be interfered with save as is necessary in the public interest.

7.43 For an interference with these rights to be justifiable the interference (and the means employed) needs to be proportionate to the aims sought to be realised. The main body of this report identifies the extent to which there is any identifiable interference with these rights. The Planning Considerations identified are also relevant in deciding whether any interference is proportionate. Case law has been decided which indicates that certain development does interfere with an individual's rights under Human Rights legislation. This application has been considered in the light of statute and case law and the interference is not considered to be disproportionate.

7.44 Officers are also aware of Article 6, the focus of which (for the purpose of this decision) is the determination of an individual's civil rights and obligations. Article 6 provides that in the determination of these rights, an individual is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal. Article 6 has been subject to a great deal of case law. It has been decided that for planning matters the decision making process as a whole, which includes the right of review by the High Court, complied with Article 6.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The main planning considerations in determining this application have been set out and considered above stating accordance with the relevant Development Plan Policy. The application has also been considered against the relevant sections within the NPPF and there is not considered to be any conflict between the local policies and the NPPF on the matters of relevance in this case.

8.2 The proposal has addressed the main considerations and would accord with relevant policy and is considered acceptable. The proposal is therefore recommended for approval.

9. Recommendation

That this application be GRANTED permission subject to the following:

Conditions/Reason

01. The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the approved document and plans.

The approved document for this development is:-

- Application Form (dated 13.05.2021)
- JEA-KK: BS5837 Tree Survey Report (07.07.2021)

The approved plans for this development are:-

- 2133-02 REV A: Proposed Site Plan (dated 30.06.2021)
- 2133-03: Proposed Electrical Kiosk (dated June 2021)

Reason: To ensure that the approved development is carried out in complete accordance with the approved document and plans.

02. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

03. The hereby approved development shall be carried out in full accordance with JEA-KK: BS5837 Tree Survey Report (07.07.2021) including the reseeding or mulching of the root protection area as identified within the section 4.6 report. There shall be siting of containers or storage within the Root Protection Area.

Reason: To protect the health, safety and amenity of the tree and to protect features environmental and amenity value having regard to GP 6 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007).

04. The shipping containers of the hereby approved development shall be restricted to single storey in height with no stacking of containers at any time. No structures, plant or advertisements shall be sited on the hereby approved containers without submission of full details from the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity and visual amenity having regard to policies GP1, GP30, GP31 and EMP1 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007).

05. No external lighting (temporary or permanent) shall be installed or used at the site without full lighting details being submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing prior to first installation.

Any submitted light scheme shall include full details of that lighting scheme (including security lighting). Lighting must be designed following guidance set out in Institution of Lighting Professionals and lighting plans must show how and where external lighting will be installed (through the provision of appropriate lighting contour plans and technical specifications, and details of any automated motion sensitive or timed controls) so that it can be clearly demonstrated that areas to be lit will not disturb neighbouring residential properties.

All external lighting shall be installed in accordance with the specifications agreed and retained thereafter in perpetually. Under no circumstances should any other external lighting be installed without prior consent from the local planning authority.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity having regards to policies GP1 and EMP1 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007).

06. The operation of the hereby approved storage use shall only operate between the hours of 0730 and 2000hrs Monday to Saturday and 0900hrs to 1600hrs on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interest of amenity having regard to policies GP1 and EMP1 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007).

07. The hereby approved shipping containers shall be painted a dark blue prior to their installation on site to provide a uniform appearance. The containers shall be painted no other colour without submission of a colour scheme to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. The containers shall retain the dark blue (or other approved colour scheme) in perpetuity and maintained in a good condition.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity having regard to policies GP1, GP30 and GP31 of the Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007).

Date of Report:

Background Papers: Planning application file(s) 21/01978/FUL

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Northumberland County Council

Appeal Update Report

Date: January 2022

Planning Appeals

Report of the Director of Planning

Cabinet Member: Councillor CW Horncastle

Purpose of report

For Members' information to report the progress of planning appeals. This is a monthly report and relates to appeals throughout all 5 Local Area Council Planning Committee areas and covers appeals of Strategic Planning Committee.

Recommendations

To note the contents of the report in respect of the progress of planning appeals that have been submitted to and determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to all of the priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021 where identified within individual planning applications and appeals.

Key issues

Each planning application and associated appeal has its own particular set of individual issues and considerations that have been taken into account in their determination, which are set out within the individual application reports and appeal decisions.



Recent Planning Appeal Decisions

Planning Appeals Allowed (permission granted)

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
None		

Planning Appeals Split Decision

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
None		

Planning Appeals Dismissed (permission refused)

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
21/00128/FUL	<p>Change of use from public house at ground floor (Sui Generis) to 1no. self contained two bedroom apartment at ground floor (C3 Use). Retention of existing 7no. existing holiday let rooms at first floor (C1 use); 1no. existing self contained apartment at first floor (C3 Use); and 1no. existing self contained apartment at second floor (C3 use) (Amended description 06/04/2021) - Black Bull Inn, Main Road, Wylam</p> <p>Main issues: proposal is unable to provide sufficient on-site car parking with unacceptable adverse impact on highway safety; and no completed Section 106 Agreement to secure sport and play contributions.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>	No
21/01393/FUL	<p>Single-storey flat-roofed garage to rear of back garden – 7 First Avenue, Blyth</p> <p>Main issues: design, scale and massing would result in an incongruous addition with a negative visual impact on the property and surrounding area.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>	No

21/00844/FUL	<p>Adjustment to front boundary, replace lawn with permeable surface to allow parking for 2 cars, addition of electric vehicle charging point, remove pedestrian access, create central 10 foot wide vehicle/pedestrian access, installation of wrought iron gates and dropped kerbs to highway - 51 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed</p> <p>Main issues: the proposal would result in less than substantial harm to the Conservation Area and listed buildings and there are no public benefits to outweigh the harm.</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>	No
21/00845/LBC	<p>Listed Building Consent for adjustment to front boundary, replace lawn with permeable surface to allow parking for 2 cars, addition of electric vehicle charging point, remove pedestrian access, create central 10 foot wide vehicle/pedestrian access, installation of wrought iron gates and dropped kerbs to highway - 51 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed</p> <p>Main issues: the proposal would result in less than substantial harm to the Conservation Area and listed buildings and there are no public benefits to outweigh the harm.</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>	No
20/02247/FUL	<p>Erection of a rural worker's dwelling – land south of Middle Coldcoats Equestrian Centre, Milbourne</p> <p>Main issues: fails to demonstrate the need for a rural worker's dwelling in the open countryside; inappropriate development in the Green Belt and there are no very special circumstances to outweigh harm; and fails to address pollution concerns with potential to affect protected species and failure to demonstrate ecological enhancement.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>	No
21/01205/AGTRES	<p>Prior notification for change of use of an existing agricultural building and conversion to 1no. Dwelling - land to east of Edgewell House Farm House, Edgewell House Road, Prudhoe</p> <p>Main issues: insufficient information to establish if the proposal complies with relevant requirements regarding the last use of the building.</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation:</p>	No – claim refused

	Refuse	
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Planning Casework Unit Referrals

Reference No	Proposal and main planning considerations	Award of costs?
None		

Planning Appeals Received

Appeals Received

Reference No	Description and address	Appeal start date and decision level
20/03861/VARYCO	<p>Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 20/00297/FUL in order to allow new wall to be moved closer to boundary wall to underpin and give support. Also French doors have 3/4 height windows on either side and single window in extension will be replaced using existing 2no. sash windows and mullions – Ashleigh, 26 Cade Hill Road, Stocksfield</p> <p>Main issues: extension would be out of scale and character with the existing property and would have a harmful impact on the character and appearance of the site and surrounding area; and detrimental impact upon the residential amenity of the neighbouring property.</p>	<p>26 May 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
19/04660/FUL	<p>New external plant – Asda, Main Street, Tweedmouth</p> <p>Main issues: insufficient information in relation to noise and potential impacts on residential amenity.</p>	<p>19 August 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/02536/FUL	<p>Retrospective - Installation of hard standing, electricity and water points, alterations to access and other ancillary works - land west of North Farm Cottages, Embleton</p> <p>Main issues: incursion into the open countryside and would erode the rural</p>	<p>26 August 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>

	character of the site and its surroundings.	
20/03231/OUT	Erection of 4no. dwellinghouses (C3 use class) with all matters reserved – land north-west and south-east of The Haven, Back Crofts, Rothbury Main issues: fails to address highway safety matters in relation to site access and manoeuvrability.	10 September 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/03542/FUL	Change of use of land to site shepherd's hut for tourism accommodation – land east of Kingshaw Green, Tyne Green, Hexham Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt; inadequate flood risk assessment; and insufficient information regarding foul water treatment.	13 September 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
19/01008/FUL	Construction of 58no. dwellings with associated landscaping, access and infrastructure works – land to north of Fairmoor Centre, Morpeth Main issues: unacceptable in principle as the site is allocated in the development plan for employment use and it is considered that the site should be retained for such purposes; outstanding technical matters also remain to be resolved regarding surface water drainage and highways matters; and Section 106 contributions in respect of education, primary healthcare and affordable housing have not been secured.	16 September 2021 Appeal against non-determination
21/01085/FUL	Single storey front extension – 2 The Limes, Morpeth Main issues: the proposals would result in an incongruous and overbearing addition with visual harm to the property and wider street scene.	12 October 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/04369/REM	Reserved Matters application in accordance with condition 1, 2 and 5 - seeking approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping, including details of materials/finishes (residential development of up to 6 dwellings) pursuant to planning permission 13/00802/OUT - land north of High Fair, Wooler Main issues: layout, scale and massing would be out of character with surrounding area.	18 October 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/01578/OUT	Outline permission with all matters reserved - demolition of existing garage, stable block	19 October 2021

	<p>and tennis court and erection of 1 dwelling with associated driveway and landscaping (Self Build) - land west of Roecliffe, Ladycutter Lane, Corbridge</p> <p>Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt; and encroachment into the countryside and would not respond to the character of the area.</p>	<p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/04343/LBC	<p>Listed building consent for metal railings to balcony – 8 Prospect Place, Alnmouth</p> <p>Main issues: less than substantial harm caused to the listed building.</p>	<p>19 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/01918/FUL	<p>Demolition of modern agricultural sheds and development of six new residential dwellings, including gardens, car parking, and all ancillary works – Longbank Farm, Longhoughton</p> <p>Main issues: principle of housing in an isolated location in the open countryside is unacceptable; significant urbanising effects in the open countryside eroding the local landscape and not enhancing the Northumberland Coast AONB; insufficient information to assess off-site highway works; and no Section 106 Agreement completed to secure affordable housing.</p>	<p>26 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/01600/FUL	<p>Development of 9no. affordable houses, including access road, gardens, car parking and other ancillary works - land north of B6350, Corbridge</p> <p>Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt; development in an unsustainable location in the open countryside; results in encroachment into the countryside, loss of mature trees and visually intrusive and harmful impact on rural and open character of the site and setting of Corbridge; and loss of Grade 2 agricultural land.</p>	<p>27 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/03224/FUL	<p>Change of use of private dwelling into 4no. holiday lets and separate holiday home to rent and erection of 4no. holiday homes to rent with associated car parking – Bayview, Beachway, Blyth</p> <p>Main issues: inadequate off-road car parking provision and resultant off-site impacts; increased noise and light pollution to the</p>	<p>27 October 2021</p> <p>Appeal against non-determination</p>

	<p>shoreline of the Northumberland Shore SSSI and harmful to bird species in that area; inadequate provision to mitigate the impact of increased recreational disturbance to designated sites of ecological importance; insufficient information to demonstrate that the proposals are acceptable in terms of coastal erosion vulnerability and surface water drainage; and insufficient information to demonstrate the proposals are acceptable in terms of impacts on the World War II pill box and setting of Blyth Battery.</p>	
20/04348/FUL	<p>Former Veterinary Clinic Converted to 4 x Residential Apartments – 37-39 Croft Road, Blyth</p> <p>Main issues: harmful impact on residential amenity; fails to address highway safety matters in relation to parking provision; and lack of completed planning obligation in respect of a contribution to the Coastal Mitigation Service.</p>	<p>27 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/03777/FUL	<p>Change of use to dwelling with single storey extension and internal/external alterations – The Water House, Redesmouth, Hexham</p> <p>Main issues: no completed Section 106 Agreement to secure planning obligation of financial contribution for sport and play provision.</p>	<p>28 October 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/02282/LBC	<p>Listed building consent for replacement of all single glazed windows with double glazed units matching the current design – West House, Chillingham Castle, Chillingham</p> <p>Main issues: insufficient information to demonstrate that the proposed works are necessary or justified and the existing windows are beyond reasonable repair.</p>	<p>2 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/00667/FUL	<p>Conversion of agricultural buildings into 4no. residential units – High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington</p> <p>Main issues: retention and alteration of modern hay barn as part of conversion works is unacceptable in principle; and harmful design that would not be in keeping with the curtilage listed buildings.</p>	<p>2 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
21/01660/FUL	<p>Proposed erection of perimeter fencing and gates – site of former The Bungalow, High Pit Road, Cramlington</p> <p>Main issues: by virtue of siting, height and design the proposal constitutes an</p>	<p>3 November 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation:</p>

	incongruous feature that fails to respect or enhance the character of the area.	Refuse
21/02878/FUL	Change of use of land for siting of shepherd's huts and associated development – land north of White House Farm, Slaley Main issues: inappropriate development in the Green Belt.	4 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/03062/FUL	Proposed alterations and rear extension to dwelling house (retrospective) - 23 Shoresdean, Berwick-upon-Tweed Main issues: poor quality flat roof design with detrimental impact on the property and the character of the environment.	10 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/00656/FUL	Retrospective: replacement of all windows and doors – 67 Main Street, North Sunderland, Seahouses Main issues: proposal does not preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and results in less than substantial harm with no public benefits.	22 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/02916/FUL	Addition of a balcony to the first floor east facing gable elevation accessed by new door – 1 Elfin Way, South Shore, Blyth Main issues: incongruous feature on the property that fails to respect or enhance the character of the area; and harm to amenity.	24 November 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/00465/FUL	Resubmission: alterations to existing window opening on front elevation and installation of replacement balcony – Riverview, Shepherds Hill, Alnmouth Main issues: unacceptable impact on amenity of neighbouring properties; and detrimental impact on the AONB.	1 December 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
20/00705/FUL	Proposal for the erection of a dwelling and garage with associated landscaping – Plot 28, Grange Road, Berwick Main issues: scale and visual impact would be detrimental to and out of character with the immediate surroundings.	1 December 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse
21/02734/FUL	Demolish garage and erect two storey side extension and single storey flat roof rear extension – 23 The Beeches, Ponteland Main issues: disproportionate addition to the	7 December 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation:

	property resulting in negative impact to the character of the area and inappropriate design.	Refuse
21/01136/FUL	Construction of 1 no detached dwelling (as amended) - land south of Embleton Hall and behind Front Street, Lonframlington Main issues: fails to protect and enhance the landscape character of the village; and forms an incursion into the open countryside, is not essential and fails to support the conservation and enhancement of the countryside.	13 December 2021 Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse

Recent Enforcement Appeal Decisions

Enforcement Appeals Allowed

Reference No	Description and address	Award of costs?
None		

Enforcement Appeals Dismissed

Reference No	Description and address	Award of costs?
None		

Enforcement Appeals Received

Appeals Received

Reference No	Description and address	Appeal start date
18/00223/ENDEVT	Land to the West of Buildings Farm, Whittonstall, Consett, DH8 9SB Main issues: material change of use of the land from agricultural for the siting of 4 caravans	1 February 2021

18/00223/ENDEVT	<p>Land to the West of Buildings Farm, Whittonstall, Consett, DH8 9SB</p> <p>Main issues: material change of use of the land for the siting of one caravan and the erection of fencing in excess of 2 metres in height</p>	1 February 2021
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Inquiry and Hearing Dates

Reference No	Description and address	Inquiry/hearing date and decision level
20/02488/FUL	<p>Siting of upcycled shipping containers to provide retail and leisure facilities (use class A1, A3, and A4) and tented permanent roof covering as supplemented by note from agent received 07/09/20, additional details received 23/09/20, acoustic report received 25/09/20, and supplementary information received 20/10/20 - JH Laidler Storage Yard, Double Row, Seaton Delaval</p> <p>Main issues: loss of employment land; not demonstrated that the proposal satisfies the sequential test for main town centre uses in an out of centre location; and lack of information to be able to assess impacts on highway safety.</p>	<p>Hearing date: 27 September 2021</p> <p>Delegated Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>
20/01932/FUL	<p>Construction of single dwelling with annex and ancillary accommodation, c.6.5 metre high wind turbine, associated landscaping and highway works (amended description) - land south of Church Lane, Riding Mill</p> <p>Main issues: isolated dwelling in the open countryside; inappropriate development in the Green Belt; insufficient information to fully assess ecological impacts; harmful impacts on the character of the site, wider area and countryside; lack of completed Section 106 Agreement to secure planning obligations for contributions to sport and play provision; and insufficient information to assess noise from</p>	<p>Hearing date: 18 January 2022</p> <p>Committee Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>

	wind turbine and impacts in residents and local area.	
21/01584/FUL	<p>Demolition of agricultural buildings. Replace and build on footprint 4 workers cottages and install solar panels – South Dissington Farm, Eachwick</p> <p>Main issues: development in the open countryside and no demonstrated need for new rural worker’s dwellings; and inappropriate development in the Green Belt with no very special circumstances demonstrated.</p>	<p>Hearing date: to be confirmed.</p> <p>Committee Decision - Officer Recommendation: Refuse</p>

Implications

Policy	Decisions on appeals may affect future interpretation of policy and influence policy reviews
Finance and value for money	There may be financial implications where costs are awarded by an Inspector or where Public Inquiries are arranged to determine appeals
Legal	It is expected that Legal Services will be instructed where Public Inquiries are arranged to determine appeals
Procurement	None
Human resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached?) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/a	Planning applications and appeals are considered having regard to the Equality Act 2010
Risk assessment	None
Crime and disorder	As set out in individual reports and decisions
Customer consideration	None
Carbon reduction	Each application/appeal may have an impact on the local environment and have been assessed accordingly
Wards	All where relevant to application site relating to the appeal

Background papers

Planning applications and appeal decisions as identified within the report.

Report author and contact details

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Northumberland County Council

ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 12TH JANUARY 2022

Response to Petition for Dogs on Leads at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Promenade.

Report of: Elizabeth Morgan Interim Executive Director for Public Health and Community Services.

Cabinet Member: Colin Horncastle

Purpose of report

To respond to a recent petition requesting that measures be put in place to require all dogs to be placed on leads while being exercised on Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Promenade.

Recommendations

1. To publicly consult in September 2022 on adding this measure (that dogs must be placed on leads on Newbiggin Promenade) in January 2023 to the existing Northumberland County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “Keeping Our Communities Safe and Well” priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021

Key issues

1. The petition asks for consideration to be given to a new restriction requiring all dogs to be placed on leads while being walked on Newbiggin by the Sea promenade. The petitioners think this measure should be in place is due to aggressive dogs and unhelpful owners detracting from what should be an enjoyable experience for families and individuals using the promenade.
2. The existing Northumberland County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is required to be renewed under statutory provision in January 2023. Before its renewal, public consultation must be undertaken on any existing or proposed measures and it is planned that this consultation will begin September 2022.
3. It is proposed that this request, requiring all dogs being placed on leads while being exercised on Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Promenade be included as part of the proposed consultation.
4. The current PSPO already allows officers to instruct dog owners to put dogs on leads if they think the dog is out of control. There will be heightened patrolling of the Promenade during 2022. This will also assist in building up evidence to support the need for such a measure as proposed by the petitioners.

Background

1. Since 2012 the Council has had a zero-tolerance approach to dog fouling. Any person observed allowing their dog(s) to foul without immediately picking up is (if a first-time offender) issued with a fixed penalty notice. This requires the payment within 14 days but if the offender does not pay the fine (£100 standard) or is a second time offender then the council would prosecute through the courts. The current NCC (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) makes it an offence to foul any publicly accessible land in Northumberland.
2. The current NCC (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) only requires dogs to be on leads beside A & B class roads and while in cemeteries/memorial gardens. However, the PSPO also allows Officers who witness poor dog control to order dogs be placed on a lead on any public land. This gives Enforcement Officers the power to direct a dog owner to put their dog on a lead if we feel it is out of control, behaving in a dangerous manner or causing a nuisance but we must be there to see it.
3. The PSPO also has in place a beach exclusion zone for areas of Blyth and Newbiggin Beaches which is enforced between 1st May and 30th September each year.
4. As part of the Green Dog Walker Scheme the Council offer members bags for the safe removal and disposal of dogs faeces. They are available for free at Council offices and are distributed by animal welfare officers during patrols of public spaces. The scheme currently has over 4000 members.

Implications

Policy	Not at this time.
Finance and value for money	New signage will be financed from existing budgets.
Legal	if progressed, proposal would be subject to public consultation and if supported would require the existing Northumberland County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order to be amended by Council.
Procurement	no
Human Resources	no
Property	no
Equalities	Not currently. Before any decision were taken, the proposal would be subject to public consultation.

(Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	no
Crime Disorder &	If the proposal were progressed, it would create an offence, unless a statutory defence existed, of failing to have a dog on a lead within the specified area.
Customer Consideration	The overall aim would be to enhance and improve use and enjoyment of the specified area.
Carbon reduction	no
Health and Wellbeing	The introduction of this addition to the PSPO will improve the mental wellbeing of those individuals for whom out of control dogs provoke anxiety or stress and may promote increased use of this outside space for exercise and recreation for those who may have avoided it due to this issue
Wards	Newbiggin

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Neil Masson
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Liz Morgan
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Colin Horncastle

Author and Contact Details

John Robertson Environmental Enforcement Principal Officer 01670-620066

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Northumberland County Council

COMMITTEE : ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 12 JANUARY 2022

TITLE OF REPORT: Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service: Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 Consultation

Report of Chief Fire Officer Paul Hedley

Cabinet Member: Councillor Colin Horncastle, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Fire Authority Chair

Purpose of report

Following guidance from NCC Legal and Democratic Services, The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 is being presented as part of the consultation process which opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Senior Officers have the opportunity, should you wish, to present our Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26, and that each Local Area Council contributes to the consultation.

Link to Corporate Plan

Living – ‘we want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for’.

Key issues

- Under the [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#) (2018) all fire and rescue authorities are required to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan. This is now called a Community Risk Management Plan.
- According to the framework, each plan must:
 - Reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority.
 - Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources.
 - Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks.
 - Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat.

- Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework.
- Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners;
- Be easily accessible and publicly available.

Background

- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017-21 was extended by one year.
- Reasons for extending the plan for one year were deemed to 'have merit' during a recent inspection undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is now consulting on its Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26, supporting the Fire Authority to meet its responsibilities under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018).
- Consultation opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022.
- Consultation questions can be completed online by clicking the link <https://haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/nfrs/crmpconsultation2022/> or by email fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk to request a hard copy.
- Copies of the consultation questions can be provided in an alternative language on request. Please email your request to fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk.
- The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 has now been developed, providing data and analysis on key fire and rescue related risks, and information on how Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service will work with communities to address and mitigate those risks.

Implications

Policy	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 will inform all key policies for Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.
Finance and value for money	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 includes information on finance and how prevention, protection and community risk and response resources are utilised to remove or to mitigate key risks across the county of Northumberland.
Legal	Northumberland Fire Authority has a legal responsibility to produce a Community Risk Management Plan, and to consult on it.
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	N/A

Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and is attached for reference.
Risk Assessment	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 is a risk-based document, capturing key fire and rescue related risks across Northumberland, and how the Service will mitigate those risks.
Crime & Disorder	Details on crime and disorder are captured within the plan.
Customer Consideration	The plan is customer focused, written to capture key risks to residents across the county, and providing details on how the Service will mitigate those risks.
Carbon reduction	A carbon impact assessment has been completed.
Health and Wellbeing	Details on health and wellbeing are captured within the plan.
Wards	All

Background papers:

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26.
Equality Impact Assessment.

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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**Northumberland
Fire and Rescue Service**

Community Risk Management Plan 2022-2026



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FOREWORD

Welcome to our Community Risk Management Plan

Welcome to Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-26.

As Fire Authority Chair of Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Chief Fire Officer for NFRS we are pleased to be able to provide this four year plan for our local communities, residents and visitors. The plan sets out how we intend to deliver our mission of 'Making Northumberland Safer' and to outline how we seek to give assurance that Northumberland is served by a highly efficient, highly effective and high performing fire and rescue service.

The CRMP identifies our analysis of current and future risks within the county, identifies emerging risks and trends, and outlines how we will balance prevention, protection, and response activities to reduce the impact of risk on communities by making the best use of our people and resources. We will continue to work with internal and external partners to ensure that we maintain our efforts to mature our ability to better identify, understand and analyse all of the risks we Northumberland faces.

We welcome comments on the plan and our proposals. We have worked hard to improve our social media presence and develop a bespoke NFRS website to enhance our community interaction, because improving our engagement with the public and raising awareness of all of our service activity is a priority for us.



Cllr Colin Horncastle
Cabinet Member for Community Services
and Fire Authority Chair

The Service was subject to its second independent assurance inspection from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) from mid-June – mid August 2021. Whilst the judgment was that we Require Improvement against Effectiveness, Efficiency and People, it was pleasing to note the positive comments and acknowledgements from the inspectorate of the improvements and progress we’ve made since 2019.

«**THE COVID PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING RESILIENT PLANS IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH MAJOR INCIDENTS, EMERGENCIES AND BUSINESS INTERRUPTIONS**»

Our new Performance and Assurance Framework (PAF), which was formally launched in January 2022, will be the mechanism by which we ensure we drive and assure integrated and continuous improvement in the performance, governance, and delivery of the Service.



Paul Hedley
Chief Fire Officer
and NCC Director

Strategically, we are committed to extending our reach and integration with partners into Northumberland communities and vulnerable groups to develop more effective community safety initiatives and interventions. Building more resilient, inclusive, and effective relationships with partners within NCC, Northumbria Police, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC), NHS, voluntary and charity sector and other fire and rescue services (FRS) will be key to achieving that success.

As a small service covering a very large area and diverse risk, we know that maximising the availability of fire cover from our 15 fire station sites across Northumberland is fundamental to providing the Community Risk and Response capability necessary to better meet the expectations of our residents. We will be undertaking reviews of our operational response model, on-call capability and specialist response as well as looking to provide enhanced functionality through partnership and mutual aid with neighbouring FRS.

The Covid 19 pandemic highlighted the importance of having resilient plans in place to deal with major incidents, emergencies and business interruptions. In addition, the Covid 19 response also emphasised the importance of ensuring we have integrated planning and response

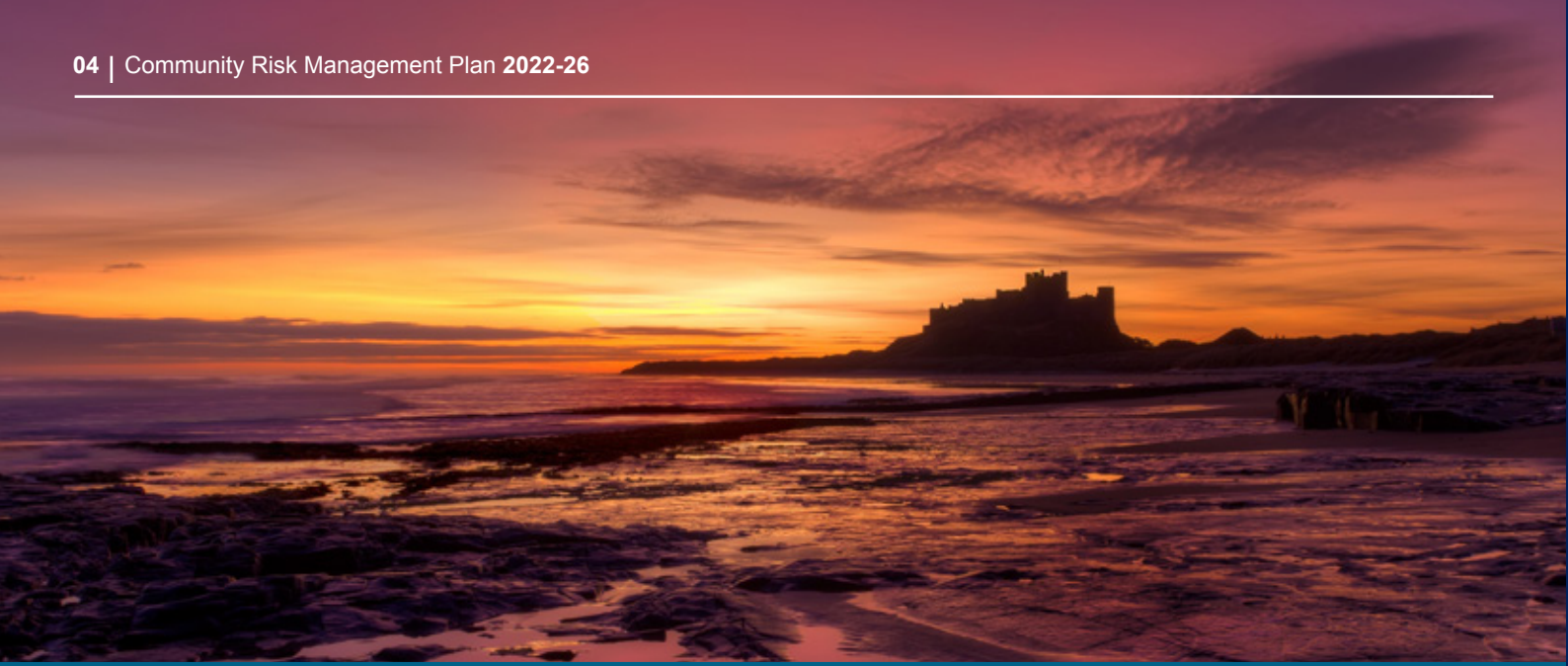
frameworks within NCC as well as effective multiagency response and mutual aid support from our Local Resilience Forum (LRF), FRS National Resilience and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) arrangements. We will continue to review and update those arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

We have already started our ambitious plans to focus upon improving our internal staff engagement and staff development, putting our values and values-based behaviours at the heart of all we do. We continue to strive to be an ‘employer of choice’ within Northumberland, with a highly skilled and motivated workforce that reflects our Service values and who see our Service as an engaging, positive, and rewarding place to work. We have revised our recruitment and promotion policies to ensure we have eliminated obstacles to recruiting the brightest and best from all our communities. Our NFRS People Strategy compliments this CRMP and provides more detail on our ‘All Included, All Involved and All Engaged’ aspirations.

By being open and responsive to change, and through exploring and investing in new and innovative technologies and ways of working, we will continue to improve the safety and wellbeing of the diverse communities we serve.

There are many interdependencies within the CRMP planning process, and for this reason we intend to monitor our progress and review the measures set out in this document through an annual CRMP update. We are committed to ensuring our plans are always current, appropriate and detail what we have delivered, how we have performed and what our delivery priorities are for the coming year.

As Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority and Chief Fire Officer we value your opinion and encourage you to offer feedback on our plans. We look forward to hearing from you.



OUR COUNTY PROFILE

The county is home to major road and rail links, the Port of Blyth, modern industrial developments, one top tier Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) site and two Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP).

- Northumberland covers an area of **5013 km squared**.
- We have a population of **323,820**, living in **152,000 dwellings**.
- The county is the most sparsely populated county in England with **65 people per km squared**, with **96.7 percent** of the area considered rural.
- **51 percent** of people live in **3 percent** of the area, mainly situated in the southeast.
- We have an ageing population, with the number of those aged 85+ forecast to increase by **102 percent** by 2043.
- **23 percent** of children aged 16 and under live in a family considered to be low income.
- **12 percent** of the population live in **10 percent** of the most deprived areas in England.
- **98.4 percent** of residents are white, with **92.7 percent** white British.
- **12.9 percent** of the population in Northumberland are smokers.
- Compared with England, Northumberland has **higher rates** of hospital admissions due to alcohol related problems, and the rate is rising.
- **Employment** is dominated by health, retail, and manufacturing.
- With a business community that is resilient, our biggest industries are **agriculture, forestry, fishing, construction, professional, scientific and technological services**, and **accommodation and food**.



OUR VALUES

Our values and behaviours help us to work well together to deliver an efficient and effective service and to ensure that we look after our people and our communities.

Our agreed values are:

- Residents first – here for you.
- Excellence and quality - listening and learning to improve your service.
- Respect – you are valued.
- Keeping communities safe and well – your safety and wellbeing is at the heart of what we do.

Our values are underpinned by our leadership commitments:

- Be professional and provide leadership by example.
- Be open to challenge and change.
- Be fair, honest, and transparent, acting with integrity.
- Communicate openly and demonstrate empathy to all.



OUR PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Our People Strategy was launched in May 2021, recognising that our people are our most valued asset.

We need those people to have the right skills, qualities, values and attitude to ensure that we can meet the needs and expectations of our communities across Northumberland – by having the right people working for our residents and visitors, we have a much greater confidence of being able to fully deliver on our mission of ‘Making Northumberland Safer’. We recognise the unique role and profile we enjoy within our communities and want to enhance that conspicuous position by developing our staff as role models and community ambassadors.

By ensuring that we have a working environment where our people feel valued, listened to, empowered, and trusted, we will continue to develop as an integrated and mature organisation which works collaboratively and innovatively to support and protect our communities.

We are committed to ensuring that we are seen as an employer of choice for everyone within our communities as we recognise that by promoting inclusion, and having

a more balanced and representative workforce, we are better able to understand the needs of people from diverse backgrounds and shape our Service more effectively to meet their needs. We remain committed to taking deliberate and positive action to promote the service to underrepresented groups.

Our People Strategy is based on a set of 12 guiding principles which underpin and cut across all areas of service and six key commitments to assist in ensuring that the strategy can deliver on our strategic aims and objectives and better support the role of the Service within our council, communities and partnerships.

We recognise the importance of ethical and authentic leadership at all levels of the Service, and we will build on the significant work which has already taken place with our staff to develop our values and behaviours, as this is an essential prerequisite to demonstrating our commitment to fairness, equality, diversity, respect and continuous improvement.



OUR COMMITMENTS

- 01 Develop a ‘learning culture’ that promotes fairness and trust, and values the contribution of all.
- 02 Recognise and demonstrate equality and diversity in our workforce and across our activities.
- 03 Encourage and promote effective leadership and management at all levels of our organisation.
- 04 Provide high quality learning outcomes for our workforce.
- 05 Promote the health, wellbeing and fitness of our staff.
- 06 Support and develop ways of working that are flexible and adaptable to changing needs/demands.



OUR PRINCIPLES

Every fire and rescue service is unique, but whilst NFRS may have different cultural and people determinants due to our differences in leadership, governance, service delivery model and size, there are common goals and principles which should be consistent throughout the sector.

We have taken the underpinning principles within the NFCC People Strategy and Draft Code of Ethics to develop a suite of guiding principles which will be used to govern the service and shape our thinking and decision making.

01 We want to be an employer of choice

We will seek to position the service as a career of choice across all sectors and communities of Northumberland to attract and retain the best people. Where we identify barriers that may prevent that aspiration, whether real or perceived, we will tackle them.

02 Our values define us

Our core values and behaviours, personal and organisational, will underpin everything we do. We will challenge negative and undermining behaviour to ensure we are fair, consistent and honest in the way we treat each other.

03 We always try to make a positive difference for our communities

We will continue to make a positive contribution to the lives of our communities, residents and visitors on a daily basis – we will work to make Northumberland safer and stronger through our involvement, engagement and presence.

04 The Health, Safety and Welfare of our staff is our priority

The health, safety and welfare of all of our people will continue to be at the heart of all that we do. We will support the well-being of our staff through dedicated programmes and take specific action to tackle the stigma around mental health and celebrate difference.

05 We will embrace new ways of working

We will deliver flexible solutions that are correctly positioned to support our increasingly mobile workforce, whilst being agile enough to adapt to future changes in business requirements and working practices.

06 We will have excellent communication

We will build an effective internal communications framework to ensure that our messaging is honest, clear and delivered in the most appropriate format. Externally we will continue to grow our ability to engage and communicate with residents, businesses and partners.

07 Staff Engagement and Involvement are key to our success

We will involve our staff in decision making and policy development ensuring that they are properly engaged and consulted with regards to the future direction of the service. We recognise the importance of being able to respond to staff suggestions and the importance of every member of the service having their voice heard.

08 We will champion equality, diversity and inclusion

We will actively promote equality across our workforce and through our services in the community, and will try to increase the diversity and balance of our workforce through positive action programmes to ensure we reflect the communities we serve and attract the best possible talent available to us.

09 We will develop a workforce of leaders

We will enhance, facilitate and encourage leadership at all levels of the service, devolving responsibility and accountability to the lowest level and creating a high performance culture to improve performance and outcomes.

10 We are a learning organisation

We will become skilled at creating, acquiring, and transferring knowledge, and at modifying our behavior to reflect new knowledge and insights. We accept and welcome scrutiny and challenge and recognise new ideas and different thinking is essential if learning is to take place.

11 Strong collaboration and partnership

We will actively support working and sharing information with our partners, and will develop our relationships with partner organisations to promote and deliver services which add real public value and improve our effectiveness and efficiency.

12 We are 'OneTeam'

NCC's vision is 'One Council That Works For Everyone' – as part of our contribution to achieving that vision we will develop a 'One Team' culture within NFRS to break down internal barriers and encourage a collaborative and outcome focused mind-set.

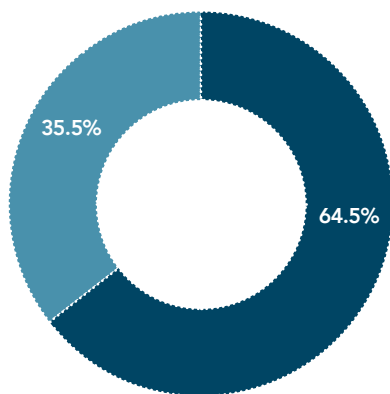


OUR BUDGET

We had a total budget of £16,136,360 to deliver your service during 2020-21. Much of this budget was spent on our people, and this is reflected in **Chart 1** below. **Chart 2** shows how this money is spent by role. Finally, **Chart 3** shows how non-staffing budget is used to support our Prevention, Protection and Community Risk and Response activity.

CHART 1

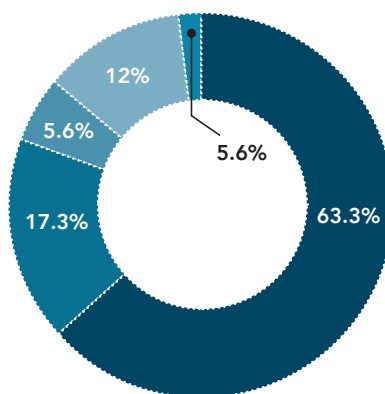
How our budget reflects staffing and non-staffing costs for 2021-22.



- Staffing cost 64.5
- Non-staffing cost 35.5

CHART 2

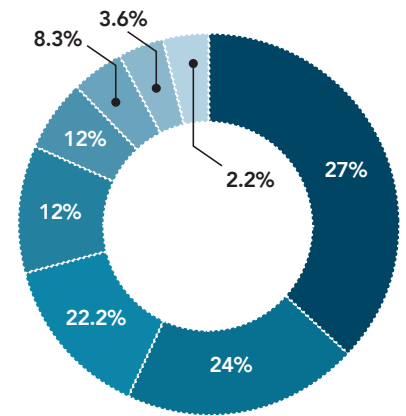
How our budget has been divided by roles during 2021-22.



- Wholetime
- Retained
- Local Government
- Control
- Other

CHART 3

How our budget reflects non-staffing costs for 2021-22.



- PFI
- Asset depreciation
- Data and comms
- Premises related
- Supplies and services
- Third party payments
- Vehicle and travel
- Employee related

OUR COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Fire and rescue authorities (FRA) have a number of duties as set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

When carrying out their core functions under the Act, FRAs must:

- Secure the provision of personnel, services and equipment.
- Secure the provision of training for personnel.
- Secure arrangements for dealing with calls and summoning assistance.
- Secure arrangements for obtaining information for the discharging of their functions.
- Secure arrangements for reasonable steps to be taken to prevent or limit damage to property resulting from the discharge of their functions.

- To collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide.
- To be accountable to communities for the service they provide.
- To develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse.

The core functions of an FRA are:

- Promote fire safety, including the provision of information and publicity on how to prevent fires, and on the means of escape from buildings in case of fire.
- Extinguish fires and protect life and property in the event of fires.
- Rescue people and protect people from serious harm in the event of road traffic collisions.
- When necessary, deal with emergencies other than fire and road traffic collisions.

FRAs in England have further responsibilities under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) to 'assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities'.

The Framework identifies five priorities for fire and rescue authorities:

- To make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents.
- To identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face.

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Authority (NFRA) is also legally responsible for the enforcement of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The Order places a duty on a responsible person within an organisation to carry out fire risk assessments to identify, manage and reduce the risk of fire within public and commercial buildings, and in communal and external areas of residential premises with two or more dwellings.

In order to support the Fire Authority, we carry out audits of premises, provide education, advice and guidance to responsible persons on fire safety. Where serious fire safety issues are found, we will take appropriate enforcement action to improve fire safety. We will also prosecute when it is in the public interest to do so.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the FRA has a duty to work with partners in their LRF to plan and train for risks identified in a joint Community Risk Register (CRR). This assists in risk management planning, and risks identified in the CRR are reflected in our plan.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a duty on police, fire and ambulance services to work together in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency services. NFRS works in collaboration with Northumbria Police, the OPCC and, through a North East Strategic Delivery Board, the 4 North East FRS' to ensure NFRA meets its responsibilities under the Act.

Our CRMP will support change within NFRS, setting out our strategic priorities and how we intend to manage the existing and future risks within the county.

UNDERSTANDING RISK

NFRS defines risk as a **'combination of the likelihood and consequence of a hazardous event'**. This supports the NFCC definition and strategic risk management framework.

In the case of fire and rescue related risks, hazardous events are the emergency incidents that we attend. We have a responsibility to our communities to identify what type of incidents we attend, and to work with our communities and key partners to minimise or prevent the likelihood of these happening.

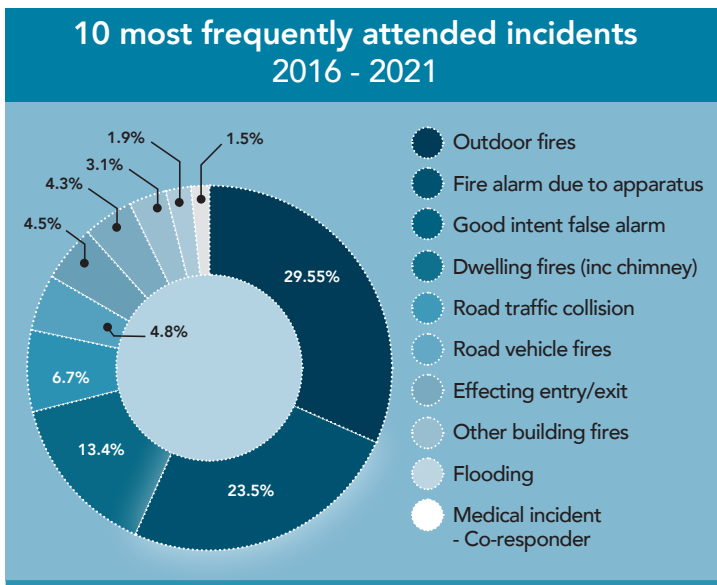
We know that over the last 10 years, working closely with our communities and key partners, we have reduced the

total number of incidents we attend by 21 percent. The total number of incidents we attended during 2020/21 is likely to have been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, however the total number attended is the lowest in the last 10 years, and 11 percent less than the previous year (2019/20).

To understand the risks faced by our communities, we need to know what type of incidents we attend. We know that we attend up to 30 different types

of incidents, however we also know that only 10 of these account for over 90 percent of all attendances. By focusing on these we will maximise our efforts to reduce risk and mitigate consequences.

The types of incidents we attend the most rarely change, which gives us confidence that we can target our resources effectively, implementing both short and long-term interventions. The charts below show the types of incidents we attend.



Activity 2020/2021

EMERGENCY CALLS 6,419	TOTAL INCIDENTS ATTENDED 2,991	FALSE ALARMS 1,122	FIRES 1,319
SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS 550	ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 128	RESCUES 224	

“WE KNOW THAT OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, WORKING CLOSELY WITH OUR COMMUNITIES AND KEY PARTNERS, WE HAVE REDUCED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WE ATTEND BY 21 PERCENT.”

Working in collaboration with **Operational Research in Health (ORH) Ltd** we have developed a fire and rescue risk profile for Northumberland. Applying analysis and statistical modelling, we have:

- Analysed incident and response data of all incident types attended by the service.
- Identified multiple data sources relating to fire and other risks, such as population and demographics, building and road network data.
- Applied random forest modelling to determine risk scores, and to identify which characteristics have the strongest relationship to the likelihood of incidents occurring. For instance, we know that there is a strong relationship between deliberate outdoor fires and crime deprivation (this is the recorded crime for four major crime types, violence, burglary, theft and criminal damage).
- Assessed these relationships to consider risk across Northumberland.

This process allows us to determine a risk score by Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA). A LSOA is a geographical area of approximately 1500 people or 650 households, and there are 197 in Northumberland. The risk score is relative to Northumberland, and to the highest risk LSOA.

Our profile helps us to determine where we target our resources to address risk, and what factors impact on both the likelihood of an incident happening, and the severity of any resulting consequence. This in turn influences our Prevention and Protection programmes, as well as ensuring we have our Community Risk and Response resources where we need them most.

Risk is dynamic, and we will continue to review risks to our communities, our people, our reputation and the delivery of our statutory responsibilities.



DWELLING FIRES

During 2020/21 we attended 199 house fires in Northumberland, 90 percent of which were accidental.

These incidents can have a devastating affect on those involved, sometimes leading to injury and even death. Our risk profile uses multiple data sets to inform our programmes, and we enhance our profile with data

that allows us the opportunity to target our prevention towards those most likely to have an accidental fire in their home. Our partners help us with this by sharing, where appropriate, information and data on individuals and families who would benefit most from our support.

Where we can, we will work with our

partners collaboratively to develop our programmes and strengthen our reciprocal training and referral processes to ensure we can help and support the people who need us the most.

What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Deliver a targeted safe and wellbeing programme, ensuring people remain at the heart of what we do.
- ▶ Work in collaboration with partners to develop our prevention policy.
- ▶ Deliver robust safeguarding referrals leading to positive outcomes for those at risk.
- ▶ Deliver training for Community Risk and Response personnel and assess operational and command competence.
- ▶ Undertake fire investigations to ensure learning.
- ▶ Undertake case reviews to inform learning.
- ▶ Continue to develop our use of social media platforms to share key messages with our communities.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Introduce additional measures to monitor the success of our safe and wellbeing programme, ensuring we are targeting those who are at high or very high risk of having a fire in their home.
- ▶ Introduce community safety training and qualifications for Community Safety and Community Risk and Response personnel.
- ▶ Work with partners to further share relevant data to assist risk profiling and targeting.
- ▶ Pilot the NFCC national model for dwelling fires as a 'proof of concept'.
- ▶ Launch a dedicated NFRS website.
- ▶ Develop and implement Community Fire Risk Management Information System (CFRMIS) online services to allow for online referrals.
- ▶ Implement robust quality assurance processes.
- ▶ Evaluate the success of our safe and wellbeing programme.



AUTOMATIC FALSE ALARMS (AFA) IN DWELLINGS

These are incidents we attend where a smoke alarm has activated in the home, but there is no fire present.

Our risk profile tells us that factors influencing the likelihood of an AFA in the home are social deprivation, social residential buildings and the population who are over 65 years of age. As there is no fire, the risk of injury is low. However, we should consider these incidents as a warning that risks may be present.

With an ageing population, there is potential for numbers of this incident type to increase, potentially also leading to an increase in actual dwelling fires. Working with our partners, therefore, becomes more important than ever.

What we do to reduce risk:

Two or more AFAs in dwellings result in a referral to our Community Safety Department, who will visit the home to carry out a risk assessment.

Ensure our risk modelling includes data on members of our community who are 65 years old or older.

Ensure our referral pathways are clear and implemented appropriately.

Provide information to signpost individuals and families to further help and support when they are not ready for a referral to be made.

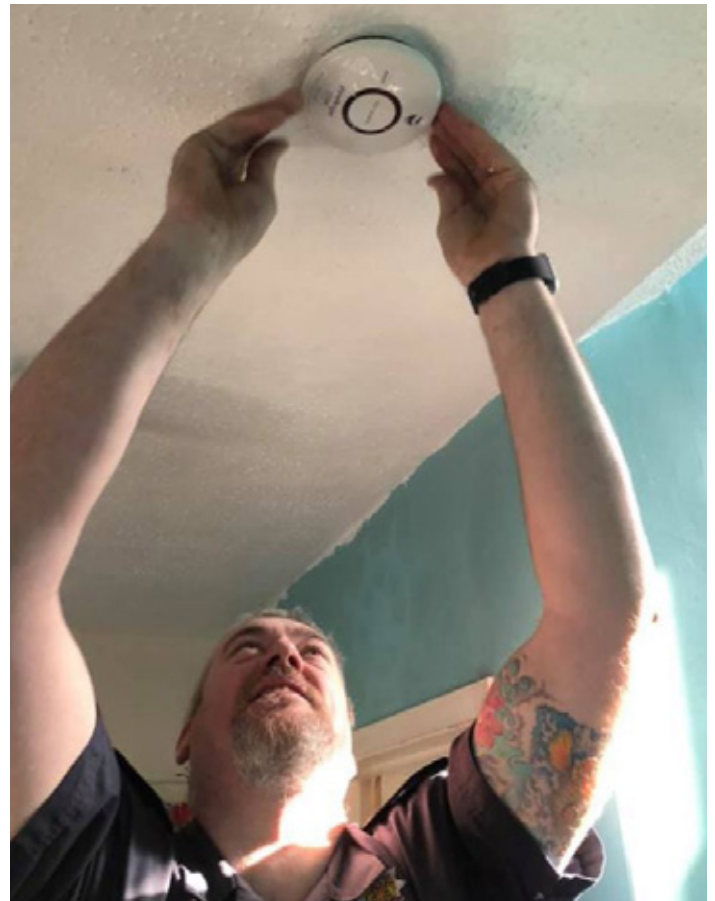
Deliver training for Community Risk and Response personnel and assess operational and command competence.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

Undertake additional analysis in order to better understand AFAs in dwellings.

Continually monitor and analyse AFA data to understand and target resources and advice, where underlying trends are identified.

Work with the NFCC to implement and support campaigns and initiatives.





OUTDOOR FIRES

During 2020/21, over 29 percent of the incidents we attended were to outdoor fires. 75 percent of these were started deliberately, typically involving rubbish, grass and woodland.

Although we attend a lot of outdoor fires, the risk of injury remains low. However, there are significant financial

and environmental impacts associated with this type of incident.

Our incident profile tells us that outdoor fires typically occur in the South East of the County, and our risk profile suggests outdoor fires occur in our more deprived areas where there is a higher crime rate (there is a strong

correlation between outdoor firesetting and anti-social behaviour).

There is also a strong relationship between outdoor firesetting, anti-social behaviour and young people under the age of 17.

What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Monitor performance through our Performance and Assurance Framework.
- ▶ Collaborate with our neighbouring North East FRSs to support research into the culture of deliberate outdoor firesetting.
- ▶ Deliver our 'Extinguish' Programme for young people involved in firesetting.
- ▶ Deliver our schools education programme in the areas where outdoor fires are most likely to happen.
- ▶ Engage children and young people in rapid local interventions.
- ▶ Work in partnership to enhance arson reduction.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Collaborate with our neighbouring North East FRSs to support research into the consistency of reporting and recording of deliberate fires.
- ▶ Collaborate with key partners on the development of target area profiles.
- ▶ Further develop our key partnerships in order to strengthen core programme delivery.
- ▶ Develop robust quality assurance processes.
- ▶ Evaluate the impact of our proactive prevention programmes.
- ▶ Evaluate our reactive interventions.

WILDFIRES

Extended periods of warm, dry weather can help support the development of large vegetation fires – fires which we call wildfires. While wildfires tend to be more common in the spring and summer, they can occur at any time of the year.

The number of wildfires occurring in Northumberland is relatively low (17 incidents between 2016/17 and 2020/21), however they can

escalate quickly and spread across large areas. Wildfires can cause major disruption to life, property and infrastructure and have catastrophic consequences for the environment, flora and fauna. 70 percent of wildfires in Northumberland have been accidental and have burned for periods of between a few hours, up to one month.

The Met Office climate projections

for the UK indicate significant temperature rises in the decades ahead for both winter and summer. Extreme weather could become more frequent and intense.

We have measures in place to monitor both climate change and wildfire risk in order to ensure we have the correct resources where and when we need them most.

The following definition has been used for a wildfire; a fire \geq 1hectare (10,000 sqm) and/or \geq 4 fire engines or vehicles and/or \geq 6 hours duration and/or flame length \geq 1.5 m and/or serious risk to life, environment, property or infrastructure.

What we do to reduce risk:

Work closely with the Met Office and Natural Hazards Partnership so that we obtain early warning that wildfire risk is elevated/severe/extreme. We also monitor the Daily Hazard Assessment.

Monitor the Met Office Fire Severity Index (FSI).

Provide wildfire prevention and preparedness advice to residents, businesses and visitors in line with our Wildfire Communication Plan.

Create and review detailed fire plans for sites that are considered at highest risk of wildfires.

Utilise a wildfire scoresheet in partnership with Northumberland National Park Authority and Natural England, subsequently published by the Uplands Management Group.

Chair the NFCC Wildfire Group sharing good practice for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response around the UK.

Facilitate the multiagency Northumberland Fire Group. www.northumberland.gov.uk/Fire/Group.aspx

Provide Specialist Personal Protective Equipment for all Community Risk and Response personnel.

Maintain four specialist wildfire hub stations.

Train Wildfire Support Officers to support locally.

Train and provide National Wildfire Tactical Advisors.

Work in Partnership to support the sharing of assets.

Support Northumberland County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

Design and implement an annual wildfire exercise to test the response to wildfire incidents, which will aim to include partner agencies and neighbouring Fire & Rescue Services.

Use the wildfire risk scoresheets developed with our partners to obtain a more detailed and localised understanding of wildfire risk across Northumberland.

Work with colleagues at Northumberland County Council to help develop plans for planting the Great Northumberland Forest.



NON-RESIDENTIAL FIRES (OR OTHER BUILDING FIRES)

These are fires in commercial buildings, such as the retail sector, industrial, manufacturing, hospital and educational facilities.

These incident types account for four percent of all incidents attended, and we attended 93 of these in 2020/21.

Risk from injury is relatively low, however the impact of non-residential fires on the economy can be significant.

Our risk profile has indicated that, in addition to the implementation of a risk-based inspection programme, protection work should prioritise retail buildings and areas with high deprivation.

What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Continue to support the business community in legislative responsibilities.
- ▶ Deliver a risk-based inspection programme.
- ▶ Provide information, advice and guidance to businesses, enforcing legislation when necessary.
- ▶ Engage with businesses, introducing innovative methods of delivery.
- ▶ Increase the inspection capability of Fire Safety by introducing Level 3 Inspectors into Community Risk and Response and establishing Associate Inspectors.
- ▶ Work with regional fire and rescue services to collaborate on Business Fire Safety.
- ▶ Implement actions identified following national incidents such as the Grenfell Tower tragedy.
- ▶ Implement a Site Specific Risk Information policy to ensure Community Risk and Response personnel are aware of the risks relevant to each high-risk commercial building.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Expand the Community Risk and Response Fire Safety Level 3 qualification to all operational Watch and Crew Managers.
- ▶ Educate and advise businesses on the completion of Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS).
- ▶ Consider the fire safety implications of the new Building Safety Bill, and implement recommendations as appropriate.
- ▶ Target all commercial premises involved in a fire for a post fire safety inspection.
- ▶ Ensure that all inspecting officers who hold a Fire Safety Level 4 diploma qualification are aligned to the 3rd party accreditation process identified by the NFCC.
- ▶ Develop an on-line self-assessment process for businesses to register their fire safety compliance.
- ▶ Monitor a series of identified targeted measures to inform and enhance fire safety delivery across the commercial sector.
- ▶ Develop a communications strategy to utilise social media platforms to inform and advise businesses.
- ▶ Identify emerging significant risks in the built environment and assess the impact of these on our service provision and the risks they present to our communities from initial awareness through planning, construction, occupation and its ongoing use.
- ▶ Further develop the use of our associate fire safety inspecting team to carry out fire safety audits in support of our risk-based inspection program.
- ▶ Continue to develop our action plan on petroleum.



AUTOMATIC FALSE ALARMS (AFA) IN NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

These are incidents we attend where the automatic fire detection equipment or alarm system has activated and there is no fire.

As there is no fire, the risk of injury is low, however as 34 percent of all incidents we attend are to false alarms, there is a significant impact on fire

and rescue resource which could be available for other incidents where risk of injury or even fatality is greater.

What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Work with businesses to provide advice and guidance on the management and maintenance of automatic alarm systems.
- ▶ Manage a cost recovery process to encourage better management and maintenance of automatic alarm systems.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Target businesses who are identified as having frequent AFA calls to their premises and work with them to reduce impact on NFRS.
- ▶ Continually monitor and analyse AFA data to understand and target resources and advice to business, where underlying trends are identified.
- ▶ Work with NFCC to implement and support campaigns and initiatives.

ROAD VEHICLE FIRES

During 2020/21 we attended 143 vehicle fires, and many of these had been started deliberately. Perhaps not surprisingly, our risk profile tells us road vehicle fires are more likely to occur in our more deprived areas where there is a higher crime rate.

What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Maintain robust partnership with Northumbria Police to inform our understanding of why these incidents are happening in Northumberland.
- ▶ Share information and intelligence with partners where appropriate.
- ▶ Attend regular partnership meetings such as Victim Offender Location (VOL) meetings to share intelligence, improve learning and effectively target prevention resources.
- ▶ Maintain Fire Investigation qualifications and competence.
- ▶ Develop robust regional and national partnerships to share good practice.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Continue to strengthen our relationship with Northumbria Police and other partners to ensure the effective sharing of information and intelligence.
- ▶ Further develop the role of Community Risk and Response Station Managers with key partners, and with the wider community.
- ▶ Increase Fire Investigation knowledge, experience and capacity within NFRS.



ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Each year people die or suffer serious injuries on the roads of Northumberland. We typically attend only the most serious collisions and attended 128 during 2020/21. Our

profiling tells us that 78 percent of all road traffic collisions involved at least one driver who lives in Northumberland. The North East Road Safety Resource provides us

with additional road traffic collision data, helping us to understand how we compare with both England and other local authorities across the region.

What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Maintain membership of the Northumberland Road Safety Coordination Group (NRSCG).
- ▶ Contribute to the Northumberland Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan.
- ▶ Monitor road safety performance utilising analysis provided by the North East Road Safety Resource.
- ▶ Deliver a road safety programme in schools as directed by our risk profile.
- ▶ Deliver key road safety messages on all prevention programmes with young people.
- ▶ Use social media platforms to share key messages.
- ▶ Maintain a Community Risk and Response capability across Northumberland.
- ▶ Train firefighters in the latest trauma management techniques in collaboration with North East Ambulance Service to ensure a high quality of casualty management.
- ▶ Provide all front-line personnel with specialist training and equipment to deal with road traffic collisions and potential casualties quickly and efficiently.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Identify a road safety lead.
- ▶ Work in collaboration with Northumberland Road Safety Co-ordination group to monitor and identify emerging road safety issues affecting the residents of Northumberland.
- ▶ Provide road safety education in the community-based upon identified risks specific to geographical areas.
- ▶ Provide road safety education in schools based on identified risks and targeted at relevant age groups.
- ▶ Further develop and enhance public 'Biker Down' sessions to inform and educate motorcyclists on the dangers of, and actions to be taken following motorcycle collisions.
- ▶ Continue to engage with the wider fire and rescue service sector to stay informed of any updates and changes to ensure that we take advantage of the latest available technology and procedures where appropriate.

FLOODING AND WATER RESCUE

We attended 276 flooding incidents between 2016/17 and 2020/21. These incidents can devastate parts of the community and leave an impact that can last for years.

While numbers have remained constant, we attended a number of incidents in August of 2019/20, and these were the result of heavy rainfall. The Met Office claims that as the world warms, fewer rainy days in summer are

expected. Winter rains could remain as likely as they are now. In 2008, widespread flooding in Northumberland affected 1,200 properties.

In 2012, flooding events impacted 240 properties. Smaller, more isolated flooding events occurred in 2013 and 2014. We have measures in place to monitor flooding risk in order to ensure we have the correct resources where and when we need them most.

We also respond to water rescue incidents, not related to flooding. Although numbers are small, 48 were recorded between 2016/17 and 2020/21, the number of incidents of this type has been increasing. Almost 44 percent of those rescued from water were from moving water such as rivers or the sea. Such events can be devastating for those involved.

What we do to reduce risk:

- ▶ Implement a schools education programme, delivering key messages on water safety.
- ▶ Utilise social media platforms to share water safety messages and both national and local campaigns.
- ▶ Maintain Swift Water Rescue capability at strategic locations across Northumberland.
- ▶ Work with partners during the response and recovery phase of flooding events.
- ▶ Undertake local and multi-agency planning, training and exercises.
- ▶ Work with NCC partners to develop and implement the Northumberland Local Risk Management Strategy.
- ▶ Work with partners to develop multi-agency flood plans.
- ▶ Support NCC Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- ▶ Expand our Swift Water Rescue Capability by upskilling additional personnel at key locations across the county.
- ▶ Identify areas of risk and address with prevention measures as appropriate.
- ▶ Continue to train our personnel in the latest techniques and procedures to ensure maximum effectiveness at water rescue incidents.



NATIONAL RESILIENCE

The term resilience refers to the ability to withstand a crisis and recover from it quickly. This could include events impacting on national security, wide scale flooding or wildfires, or pandemics such as Covid 19.

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) confirms that the Government has responsibility

for fire and rescue related national resilience assets and capabilities but that these should be managed through local fire and rescue services.

A national programme called New Dimensions, identified the need for 47 High Volume Pumps (HVP) across the country to support water or flood related incidents. We host one of these

HVPs in Northumberland, situated in the southeast of the county but ready to deploy across the county and indeed the country when required. These incidents are low in likelihood, but the impact is significant, with the possibility of building collapse, large scale environmental damage and the evacuation or rescue of people.

What we do to reduce risk:

- Complete and regularly review risk assessments for Northumberland.
- Deliver a programme of site visits.
- Participate in national exercises.
- Ensure continuous improvement by implementing actions to address recommendations identified following site visits or national exercises.
- Maintain HVP capability and competence.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- Observe and evaluate operational incidents and exercises, implementing recommendation identified.
- Review systems, processes and procedures.
- Provide support to HVP operators, instructors and Tactical Advisors with competence standards, continuous professional development, and acquisition training.
- Maintain an effective governance process for the HVP capability.

EFFECTING ENTRY/EXIT

Sometimes we are asked to help Northumbria Police or North East Ambulance Service to gain access to someone’s home. This may be because they need urgent medical help or because someone is trapped in a room and can’t get out.

We will only do this where we consider there to be a risk

to life, and we will gain entry in the least destructive way possible.

Over the last few years, these types of incidents have been increasing, and we attended 135 incidents of this type in 2020/21. Due to the nature of this incident type the risk of injury and even death is high.

What we do to reduce risk:

- Maintain Community Risk and Response competence.
- Ensure lock pulling kits are available on all fire engines.
- Continue to provide training and instruction to operational personnel in methods of entry.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

- Work in partnership with Northumbria Police, North East Ambulance Service and regional FRS’, to frequently review current arrangements to inform how we all can continue to provide an appropriate response to these incidents in the future.
- Research and review further equipment that may provide alternative methods of entry where appropriate.

MEDICAL INCIDENT – CO-RESPONDER

Between January 2016 and September 2017, we responded to 293 medical incidents.

This was a programme delivered in collaboration with North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), involving our firefighters attending high priority calls including patients who were unconscious and/or not breathing. Due to the nature of this

incident type, the risk of injury and death is high, with 634 casualties and 60 fatalities per 1,000 incidents.

Although this pilot programme has concluded, we will continue to review the possible benefits of delivering this programme in the future.

MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACKS (MTA)

Marauding Terrorist Attacks (MTAs) are fast-moving, violent attacks where assailants move through a location aiming to find and kill or hurt as many people as possible.

The likelihood of this type of incident occurring in Northumberland is low, however there is significant risk of injury or death should an incident like this happen. It is important that

we have robust planning in place, and that we work closely with other emergency services so that a response is coordinated at every level.

The foundation to every multi-agency response is the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP), however we may need to take other factors into consideration when responding to attacks.

The JESIP Joint Operating Principles (JOPs) for terrorist attacks have been developed from operational experience from the three emergency services, as well as learning taken from actual attacks and exercises.

The overwhelming priority will always be to respond quickly and proactively to protect the public.

What we do to reduce risk:

All appropriate operational staff have received training regarding the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP), aligned to the JESIP Joint Doctrine document.

All appropriate operational staff have been provided with associated JESIP aide memoires to assist commanders and responders in dealing with critical multi-agency incidents.

To support multi-agency operations at terrorist related, or other critical incidents, NFRS has trained a number of officers known as National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers (NILOs). These NILOs have appropriate knowledge, skills and security clearance to be able to respond to these types of incidents effectively. Further, these NILOs proactively engage with local, regional and national networks to ensure that information is appropriately exchanged between our multi-agency partners and stakeholders.

All appropriate operational staff have received training regarding the JESIP JOPs for terrorist type attacks - including an active exercise programme to apply and test this specific learning.

NFRS has a number of terrorist attack response planning documents to ensure that the Service is prepared for these types of incidents.

What we plan to do, to further reduce risk:

NFRS will continue to provide appropriate JESIP refresher training (including specific refresher training regarding terror attacks), alongside our multi-agency partners and stakeholders.

NFRS will continue to engage in our active exercise programme alongside our multi-agency partners and stakeholders, thus ensuring that the learning provided is being periodically applied and tested in a realistic manner. Any learning from these exercises will be fed back into the Service and the wider sector, ensuring continuous improvement for both the Service and our partners.

NFRS will continuously keep all of our terrorist attack pre-plans under close critical review, amending them as appropriate - with subsequent testing of these amended plans via our active exercise programme.



EMERGING RISKS

In addition to the range of incidents outlined in our CRMP, we must be prepared to respond to incidents that are currently infrequent yet have the potential for high impact to our communities, and continue to monitor any potential increase in the risk of likelihood and/or impact.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides assessments on climate change, implications and future risks. Climate change is bringing increased temperatures, but this is leading to multiple changes such as heatwaves, heavy rainfall and extreme weather events such as storms. These changes increase the likelihood of incidents such as flooding and wildfires, but they also increase the likelihood that the Service will be required to respond to potentially devastating events, as we saw with Storm Arwen and Barra, and to support our communities in the recovery from such extreme occurrences.

We will continue to debrief and review every response to extreme weather events to ensure we have the necessary policies, procedures, training and equipment available to provide an effective and resilient operating model. NFRS supports NCC in its delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-23. In recent years the council has reduced its carbon emissions by a third and the county is now ranked as one of the greenest in the country. However, there is still work to be done in both further reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions and providing leadership to encourage residents, businesses and other organisations to take action to cut their own carbon footprint with the aim of reaching a net-zero Northumberland by 2030. As we support the delivery of the action plan, we recognise that the positive impacts on health and



climate may take many years. As such, NFRS must continue to monitor climate change and continuously assess our resilience in responding to this increasing risk ensuring we continue to have the right people, in the right place, with the right skills.

PANDEMIC

A pandemic is an outbreak of infectious disease, occurring over a wide geographical area, and generally affecting a significant proportion of the world's population, usually over the course of several months. In December 2019, the World Health Organisation learned of a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2, now known as Covid-19. NFRS works

closely with our colleagues in NCC Business Resilience and Emergency Planning and Public Health, and with partners in Northumbria LRF and nationally through the NFCC to ensure risks are captured in our CRR, and to ensure our business continuity arrangements are robust. The Service reacted quickly to the worsening pandemic to revise our operating model and service delivery to ensure that the people of Northumberland were protected.

On 22 January 2021, following a Covid-19 thematic inspection, a report was published by HMICFRS on how well the Service had responded to the current pandemic. Pleasingly, inspectors found that the Service

had adapted and responded to the pandemic effectively. Implementing several measures to protect personnel and managing arrangements through our Business Interruption Management Team (BIMT) our fire control and community fire stations remained available as normal. In addition, the Service was able to provide fire prevention advice to the most vulnerable members of our community by adapting our approach and introducing a triage process.

At the time of publishing this CRMP, the county is still in the midst of the pandemic and the Service continues to adapt and develop

will outnumber children younger than 5 years. In 2050, 80 percent of older people will be living in low and middle-income countries, and the pace of population ageing is much faster than in the past. This shift in demographics can be seen in Northumberland, with the number of those aged 85 and over forecast to increase by 102 percent by 2043.

As people age, they are more likely to experience several health conditions at the same time. Older age is also characterised by the emergence of several complex health states, often the consequence of multiple underlying factors including frailty, falls and delirium.

An increase in age and associated health conditions, may also result in an increase in risk from fire. As such, we will continuously review our risk model to ensure we are aware of additional factors that may influence risks to our communities; whilst continuing to strengthen our partnership arrangements in order to effectively deliver our prevention programmes to those who require our services the most.

FUTURE HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines a local plan as: 'The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community'.

NCC consulted on modifications to its Local Plan during 2021 and NFRS continues to work closely with our partners across the council to ensure we are aware of and can plan for, emerging risk in relation to future residential, commercial and industrial developments.

We have strengthened our process of identifying emerging risks, enabling us to consider all impacts to our communities and our service.



its offering to the communities of Northumberland to maintain its high standards of delivery whilst ensuring it continues to protect the people of Northumberland and staff.

AGEING POPULATION AND INCREASED VULNERABILITY

According to the World Health Organisation, between 2015 and 2050 the proportion of the world's population over 60 years will nearly double from 12 percent to 22 percent. By 2020, the number of people aged 60 years and older





We have provided detail on two such emerging risks below:

BRITISHVOLT

Britishvolt is building the first Gigaplant in the UK, at a site in Northumberland, where it will build sustainable low carbon battery cells. At full capacity in 2027, the Gigaplant will produce cells for around 300,000 electric vehicle battery packs per year.

NFRS started consulting and engaging with partners at a very early stage, with the first virtual online meeting taking place in January 2021. Since that time, we have engaged in regular virtual and on-site meetings with significant stakeholders.

The Gigaplant is proposed to provide 3,000 jobs for the North East, many from the local area. Further jobs are expected to be created in the supply chain. NFRS will continue to monitor the potential increase in associated risk.

As the site will come under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) regulations we have discussed with Britishvolt what materials will be used and stored on site during the manufacturing process to gain a greater understanding of the hazards this will pose to our Community Risk and Response crews. However, work in the early stages by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency has ensured compliance with COMAH regulations.

Our Community Risk and Response firefighters have made site visits to familiarise themselves with the site

during the construction phase. Once construction of phase 1 has been completed, firefighters will carry out a site inspection, completing a site-specific risk information (SSRI) document to record potential risks. This information will be added to our mobile data terminals (MDT), ensuring firefighters attending an incident have all the risk information they need.

We will consider specialist firefighting requirements and pre-determined attendances (PDA) based on the hazard information provided by Britishvolt.

NORTHUMBERLAND TRAIN LINE

NFRS continue to work with partners throughout the development of the Northumberland Train Line (Ashington to Blyth rail link), which will connect the South East of the county to central Newcastle. The reopening of the Northumberland Line will deliver 18 miles of upgraded track and six new stations, five located in Northumberland at Ashington, Bedlington Station, Bebside, South Newsham and Seaton Delaval. The scheme is planned to be completed by winter 2023 and is intended to:

- Improve access from towns such as Ashington and Blyth to employment hubs like Newcastle, as well as opening up new opportunities for education and travel.
- Provide a real incentive for potential employers to relocate to and invest in the area.

- Provide vital infrastructure to help deliver the region’s aspirations for population and economic growth. Help to attract visitors and improve local tourism. Enhance public transport connectivity within and beyond the region.
- Help to reduce congestion and improve air quality on key corridors by moving people away from car travel and onto public transport.
- Support the delivery of significant growth in sectors such as renewable energy, offshore oil and gas and engineering.
- NFRS have advised and assisted the planning team on fire precautions required at the proposed sites and are reviewing Community Risk and Response requirements to ensure an appropriate emergency response is provided. Our fire safety inspectors will continue to work with partners to identify new and developing businesses to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations, and responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.



AIMS AND PRIORITIES

NCC has a vision of **'one council that works for everyone'** underpinned by the five key principles of:

- ▶ **Living** – we want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for.
- ▶ **Enjoying** – we want you to love where you live.
- ▶ **Connecting** – we want you to love having access to things.
- ▶ **Learning** – we want you to achieve and realise your potential.
- ▶ **Thriving** – we want to attract more and better jobs.

To support NCC vision and principles, and to deliver our mission statement of **'Making Northumberland Safer'** NFRS has developed the following aims to:

- ▶ Reduce the number of fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies in the community.
- ▶ Reduce the number of deaths and injuries and mitigate the commercial, economic and social cost of emergency incidents.
- ▶ Safeguard the environment and heritage sites (both built and natural).
- ▶ Support communities to protect themselves from harm.
- ▶ Provide money through the provision of a lean, efficient and resilient service.

Working towards our vision, NFRS has identified the following priorities for 2022-23

01 Deliver service improvements as outlined in our Continuous Improvement Plan.

The service has a comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) detailing a suite of actions against HMICFRS Areas for Improvement, CRMP priorities, and Priority programmes and projects. The Strategic Performance Board will monitor progress as part of the Service's Performance and Assurance Framework.

02 Deliver the NFCC risk model for dwelling fires as a pilot in Northumberland.

The NFCC in collaboration with Operational Research in Health has developed an evidence-based methodology for dwelling fires. We will enhance the risk model for use locally and implement a pilot in Northumberland to help us target our safe and wellbeing programme effectively and efficiently.

03 Undertake a review of protection delivery across the organisation utilising the NFCC Fire Standard and Implementation Tool.

The review, and subsequent implementation of recommendations, will ensure we are a fire and rescue service that improves the safety and wellbeing of our communities by reducing risks and incidents in the built environment, as outlined in the fire standard. Protection activities will educate and regulate those responsible for keeping buildings safe.

04 Undertake a review of prevention delivery across the organisation utilising the NFCC Fire Standard and Implementation Tool.

The review, and subsequent implementation of recommendations, will ensure we are a fire and rescue service that works to educate our communities to adopt safer behaviours, improving their safety, health and wellbeing, as outlined in the fire standard. Prevention activities will be effective, efficient and targeted.

05 Apply robust risk modelling to inform and further develop our community risk and response operating model.

We will work in collaboration with Operational Research in Health to produce an analysis of Community Risk and Response provision across Northumberland.

This will allow the service to assess the optimum distribution of our stations, fleet, equipment and specialist response to meet our risks, and will be used to inform our strategy for future estate and operational resource procurement, provision, and resilience.

06 Undertake a review of response standards for Northumberland.

We will review our response to emergency incidents across Northumberland, ensuring we continue to provide an effective and efficient service to our communities.



INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ASSURANCE

Good performance management and assurance will ensure our service is effective and efficient.

Internal:

- ◆ We monitor and assure our performance through a Performance and Assurance Framework.
- ◆ Our Strategic Performance Board provides high level oversight of all of our performance and assurance arrangements across the service.
- ◆ Priorities and Service Improvements are monitored through a Continuous Improvement Plan to ensure we are a service that is continually improving.
- ◆ We review risk annually to inform our CRMP, refreshing priorities and service delivery strategies.
- ◆ Our annual Statement of Assurance continues to provide confidence that we are delivering on our statutory responsibilities.
- ◆ NCC undertakes service reviews with the aim of improving efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring continuous improvement.

External:

- ◆ HMICFRS will provide external assurance to the communities of Northumberland, through the delivery of regular programmes of inspections, additional thematic inspections, and robust monitoring arrangements.
- ◆ We will use learning from National Operational Learning and Joint Organisational Learning to ensure continued improvement of our service delivery.
- ◆ Our Training, Assurance and Safety Department has achieved the Skills for Justice Quality Mark, ensuring robust external assurance of training delivery.
- ◆ Our Community Safety Department is Matrix Accredited ensuring good quality delivery of information, advice and guidance to our communities.
- ◆ Our Prince's Trust programme is both internally and externally verified.

YOUR VIEWS

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) reminds us that we are accountable to the communities we serve, and that we must consult regularly on our risk management plan.

In our plan, we have told you about the types of risks communities face in Northumberland and set out the things we are doing and plan to do to remove or to mitigate those risks. Thank you for taking the time to read our plan, we would now love to hear your views.

We would like to ask you four questions which you can answer by completing our survey online:

www.haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/nfrs/crmconsultation2022/

This consultation opens on **Wednesday 5th January 2022** and will close on **Wednesday 16th February 2022**.

An Easy Read copy of our plan can also be found on our website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/fire.

This can also be provided in hard copy. If you would like to receive an Easy Read copy please email us at fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk

QUESTION 01

In our Community Risk Management Plan, we have explained that there are 10 types of incidents that account for over 90 percent of all the incidents that we attend. Do you agree that we should focus our prevention, protection and community risk and response resources on these incidents?

YES NO

If NO, please explain why here:

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QUESTION 02

Against each incident type, we have explained what we do, and also what we plan to do to address the risks we have identified. Are there any other activities you feel we could consider?

YES NO

If YES, please provide details of the activities you would like us to consider:

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QUESTION 03

Are there any fire and rescue related risks you feel we have not identified, and that we should consider as a priority for our prevention, protection and community risk and response resources?

YES NO

If YES, please detail the risks and how you feel we should use our resource to address them:

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QUESTION 04

We will monitor progress against the priorities described in our plan in our Continuous Improvement Plan. Would you like us to tell you how we are doing?

YES NO

If YES, please let us know how you would like us to provide you with an update:

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QUESTION 05

If you have anything else you would like to tell us, please include it in the box below.

Additional comments:

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 **Northumberland**
County Council

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service

West Hartford Business Park
Cramlington NE23 3JP

Tel 01670 621111

www.northumberland.gov.uk/fire

  [@NlandFRS](https://twitter.com/NlandFRS)

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**Northumberland County Council
Ashington and Blyth Area Council
Work Programme 2021-22**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) To enhance good governance in the area and ensure that the Council's policies take account of the needs and aspirations of local communities and do not discriminate unfairly between the different Areas.
- (b) To advise the Cabinet on budget priorities and expenditure within the Area.
- (c) To consider, develop and influence policy and strategy development of the Council, its arms-length organisations, and other relevant bodies, to ensure that they meet local requirements and facilitate efficient and transparent decision making.
- (d) To receive information, consider and comment on matters associated with service delivery including those undertaken in partnership agencies, affecting the local area to ensure that they meet local requirements, including matters relating to community safety, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.
- (e) To consider and refer to Cabinet any issues from a local community perspective with emerging Neighbourhood Plans within their area, and consider local planning applications as per the planning delegation scheme
- (f) To consider and recommend adjustments to budget priorities in relation to Local Transport Plan issues within their area, and to make decisions in relation to devolved capital highway maintenance allocations.
- (g) To engage, through the appropriate networks, with all key stakeholders from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to facilitate the delivery of area priorities. This will include undertaking regular liaison with parish and town councils.
- (h) To inform, consult and engage local communities in accordance with Council policy and guidance, through the appropriate networks.
- (i) To, as appropriate, respond or refer with recommendations to local petitions and councillor calls for action.
- (j) To make certain appointments to outside bodies as agreed by Council.
- (k) To determine applications for grant aid from the Community Chest, either through Panels for individual Local Area Councils, or through the Panel of Local Area Council Chairs for countywide applications.
- (l) To refer and receive appropriate issues for consideration to or from other Council Committees, and as appropriate invite Portfolio Holders to attend a meeting if an item in their area of responsibility is to be discussed.
- (m) To exercise the following functions within their area:-
 - (i) the Council's functions in relation to the survey, definition, maintenance, diversion, stopping up and creation of public rights of way.
 - (ii) the Council's functions as the Commons Registration Authority for common land and town/village greens in Northumberland.
 - (iii) the Council's functions in relation to the preparation and maintenance of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
 - (iv) the Council's functions in relation to the Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007.

(v) the Council's role in encouraging wider access for all to the County's network of public rights of way and other recreational routes.

ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

Standard items updates: Public question time (bimonthly, not at planning only meetings), petitions (bimonthly, not at planning only meetings), members' local improvement schemes (quarterly).

To be listed:

- Off-street Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Cycling and Walking Board
- Enforcement

Northumberland County Council
 Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council
 Work Programme 2021-22

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14 July 2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way • Local Services Update • Appointments to Outside Bodies • Members Local Improvement Schemes
11 August 2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way
15 September 2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Services Update • Local Transport Plan Update • Police Crime and Commissioner • Northumberland Line Corridor
13 October 2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way
10 November 2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way • Local Services Update • Community Together and Community Hubs • Youth Service Provision • Winter Services Preparedness and Resilience
15 December 2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way
12 January 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way • Budget Presentation • NFRS: COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-26 CONSULTATION • Local Services Update
16 February 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way • Local Transport Plan

16 March 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way • Local Services Update • Members Local Improvement Schemes • North of Tyne Mayor • Enhanced Services with Town and Parish Councils
13 April 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way

<p>Northumberland County Council Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council Monitoring Report 2020-2021</p>				
Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Updates
1.				

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